

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024 ♦ Holy Eucharist at 7 and 10 p.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**.*
Nursery care is available on the second floor of the Parish House during the 7 p.m. service.

Please remember to turn off your cell phone.

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.

May the blessings and joys of Christmas be with you now and throughout the coming year.

*The music for this service is dedicated to the glory of God,
and is made possible by gifts from Martha Ellison, Wendy J. Fibison, and Kelle George.*

PRELUDE MUSIC

VOLUNTARY

Noël X

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694–1772)

CAROL *Sung by the choir.*

Angelus ad virginem

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

*Angelus ad virginem subintrans in conclave,
virginis formidinem demulcens inquit Ave.
Ave regina virginum: celi terræque Dominum
concipies et paries intacta salutem hominum:
Tu porta celi facta, medela criminum.*

*Quomodo conciperem quæ virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem quod firma mente vovi?
Spiritus Sancti gratia perficiet hæc omnia;
ne timeas, sed gaudeas, secura quod castimonia
manebit in te pura Dei potentia.*

*Ad hæc virgo nobilis respondens inquit ei:
Ancilla sum humilis omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi cælesti nuntio, tanti secreti conscio,
consentiens, et cupiens videre factum quod audio,
parata sum parere Dei consilio.*

*Eia Mater Domini, quæ pacem reddidisti
angelis et homini cum Christum genuisti:
Tuum exora Filium ut se nobis propitium
exhibeat et deleat peccata, præstans auxilium
vita frui beata post hoc exsilium. Deo gratias.*

The angel, coming secretly to the virgin in her room, soothing the virgin's fear, said: "Hail! Hail, Queen of virgins. The Lord of heaven and earth you shall conceive and, a virgin, bear the savior of mankind. You, made the gate of heaven, a remedy for sins."

"How shall I conceive, since I have not known a man? How can I break the vow that I made with firm intent?" "The grace of the Holy Spirit shall perform all this. Fear not, but rejoice, confident that chastity shall remain pure in you through the power of God."

To this the noble virgin replied, saying to him: "I am the humble handmaid of almighty God. To you, heavenly messenger, who knows so great a secret, I give my assent, and desiring to see accomplished what I hear, I am ready to obey God's decision."

Therefore, mother of the Lord, who restored peace to angels and mankind when you bore Christ, pray to your Son that he may show himself gracious to us and wipe away our sins, granting us help to enjoy the blessed life after this exile. Thanks be to God.

—13th-century English carol

HYMN 105 *Sung by all from the hymnal.*

God rest you merry, gentlemen

STRINGS

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

arr. Michael Naughtin (b. 1947)

CAROL *Sung by the choir.*

A child of hope

Ryan Murphy (b. 1971)

A child of hope to us is born, a Son to us is given.
The Light of Life, the Holy One, the joy of earth and heaven.
His name shall be the Prince of Peace, for evermore adored.
The Wonderful, the Counselor, the Everlasting Lord. *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

O sing, ye choirs of angels, sing; O sing, ye hosts above,
O come, let us adore his name, the God of grace and love.
For souls redeemed and sins forgiven, let joyful praises sound.
The King of kings salvation brings. What hope in God is found! *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Now peace on earth, goodwill to all from heaven's all-gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing: *Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.*

—*John Morrison (1749–1798), E.H. Sears (1810–1876), William Chatterton Dix (1837–1898)*

HYMN 101 *Sung by all from the hymnal.*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed

CAROL *Sung by the choir.*

The Lord at first did Adam make

June Nixon (b. 1942)

The Lord at first did Adam make out of the dust and clay,
and in his nostrils breathed life, e'en as the Scriptures say.
And then in Eden's Paradise he placed him to dwell,
that he within it should remain to dress and keep it well.

*Now let good Christians all begin an holy life to live,
and to rejoice and merry be, for this is Christmas Eve.*

And then within the garden he was set therein to stay;
and in commandment unto him, these words the Lord did say:
“The fruit which in the garden grows to thee shall be for meat,
except the tree in the midst thereof, of which thou shalt not eat.” *Refrain*

“For in the day thou shalt it touch or dost to it come nigh,
if so thou do but eat thereof then thou shalt surely die.”

But Adam he did take no heed unto that only thing,
but did transgress God's holy law, and so was wrapt in sin: *Refrain*

Now mark the goodness of the Lord, which he for mankind bore,
his mercy soon he did extend, lost man for to restore;
and therefore to redeem our souls from death and hellish thrall,
he said his own dear son should be the Savior of us all. *Refrain*

—*Traditional English carol*

VOLUNTARY

Of the Father's love begotten

Divinum Mysterium
Maureen Howell (b. 1962)

VOLUNTARY

Noël VIII

Louis-Claude Daquin

CHORAL EUCHARIST

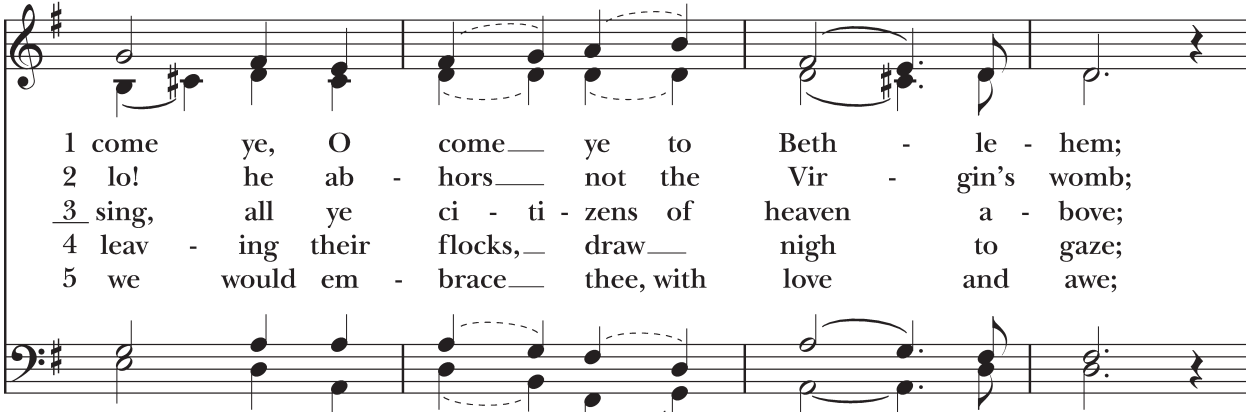
HYMN 83

O come, all ye faithful


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



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —
5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —



1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;

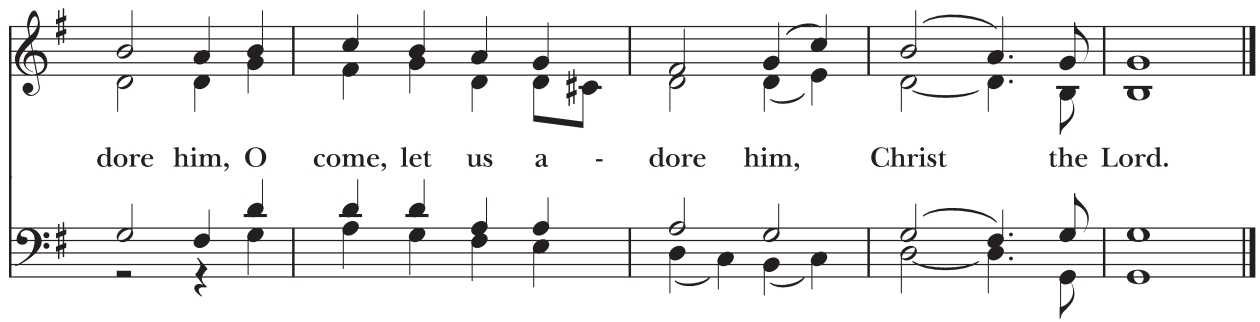


1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

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

Missa ad praesepe (Mass at the Crib)

George Malcolm (1917–1977)

Sung by the choir.

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam, Dómine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest 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 READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Please be seated.

7 p.m. Read by Sandra Hackworth.

10 p.m. Read by Martha Ellison.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 107 *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

Good Christian friends, rejoice

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

THE SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

Please be seated.

7 p.m. Read by Zoe Fisher.

10 p.m. Read by Brian Schoeneman.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN 96

Angels we have heard on high

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

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

Please remain standing as you are able.

Gospeller 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.

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. Robert W. Fisher

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

7 p.m. Led by Katherine Bliss.

Please remain standing as you are able.

10 p.m. Led by Jack Reiffer.

Intercessor Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Intercessor Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Intercessor We pray for the communities of St. John's and our companion relationships with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa* and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Mariann, our Bishop; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons.

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Intercessor We pray for Joseph, our President, and Donald, our President-elect; for the leaders of Congress and the nations, for the Supreme Court, and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Intercessor Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Intercessor Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Intercessor Give to the departed eternal rest;

People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Intercessor We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

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

Silence.

Priest O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **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

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

Ding! dong! merrily on high

Traditional French Carol
arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

Sung by the choir.

Ding! dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing!
Ding! dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
and "i-o, i-o, i-o!" by priest and people sungen!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers!
May you beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers!
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

—George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848–1934)

HYMN 109

The first Nowell the angel did say

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Words: English Carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901); alt. refrain harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968). Alternative setting with descant, Copyright © 1926, by Oxford University Press,

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:

Sung by the choir.

*Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Sabaoth:
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:
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.

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

AGNUS DEI

Missa ad praesepe

George Malcolm

Sung by the choir.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takes away 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

The little road to Bethlehem

Michael Head (1900–1976)

Sung by the choir.

As I walked down the road at set of sun, the lambs were coming homeward one by one.
I heard a sheepbell softly calling them along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door as I drew nigh, I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.
She sang about the lambs at close of day and rocked her tiny King among the hay.

Across the air the silver sheepbells rang. “The lambs are coming home,” sweet Mary sang.
“Your star of gold, your star of gold is shining in the sky. So sleep, my little King, go lullaby.”

As I walked down the road at set of sun, the lambs were coming homeward one by one.
I heard a sheepbell softly calling them along the little road to Bethlehem.

—Margaret Rose (1936–1958)

HYMN 81 *Sung by all from the hymnal, seated.*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

HYMN 115 *Sung by all from the hymnal, seated.*

What child is this, who, laid to rest

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Please tip your candle into the flame to receive the light.
After receiving the light, please hold your candle upright.

HYMN 111 *Sung by all, seated or kneeling as you are able.*

Silent night, holy night

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

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.

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.**

After the blessing, please cup your hand behind the flame and extinguish your candle.

The service continues on the next page.

HYMN 100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, joy, found, love, and heaven, re - peat, far as, and won - ders, and heaven, re - peat, far as, won - ders, and na - ture, the sound - ing, the curse is of his, sing, joy, found, love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

THE DISMISSAL

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Go tell it on the mountain

arr. Norah Duncan IV (b. 1952)

At the conclusion of the service, please place your candle in the basket near the exit.

STRING ENSEMBLE

Michael Romans and Henry Tyszler, *violin* ♦ Matthew Maffett, *viola*
Christine Lightner, *cello* ♦ T. Alan Stewart, *bass*

CHORISTERS

(At 7 p.m. only)

Gloria Burkhardt, Scout Fairbanks, Nathaniel Hersey, Ailene Neal, Beatrix Neal,
Eudora Neal, Audrey Schepis, and Sydney Shepherd

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR

Elissa Edwards, Kerry Holahan, and Tory Wood, *Sopranos*
Bonnie Alger, Lisa Koehler, and Charlotte Stewart, *Altos*
David Evans, Andrew Sauvageau, and William Watson, *Tenors*
Justin Dean, Christopher Jones, and Nathan Lofton, *Basses*

FLOWER GUILD

Sarah Agnew, Pat Dalby, Anne Harrington, Joanne Hutton, Julia Koster, Katherine Kyle, Sherill Mason

ASSISTING AT THE 7 P.M. SERVICE

Jack Reiffer, *Crucifer*
Jack Reiffer and Matthew Taylor, *Chalice Bearers*
James Czerwonky, *Head Usher* ♦ Pat Czerwonky, Claire Unger, and Jess Unger, *Ushers*
Ryan Wagner, *Livestream Operator*

ASSISTING AT THE 10 P.M. SERVICE

Brandon Montgomery, *Crucifer*
Jack Reiffer, *Chalice Bearer*
Bud Harrell and Alfred Thesmar, *Assistant Head Ushers* ♦ Kenny Kraft, *Usher*

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.

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Merrell and Preston Cherouny	In memory of Annabelle Redway
Betsy Danello	In memory of Christopher Warren Danello
William E. Davis	In memory of Martha Davis Warren In thanksgiving for Josiah & Julia
Janet Edmond	In memory of Judy Pinkham In thanksgiving for Judy Cavan
Janet Edmond & Kaye Edwards	In memory of Judy Campbell Bird
Clark Ervin & Carolyn Harris	In memory of Arthur & Hattie Ervin and Harold & Barbara Harris
Sandra Hackworth	In memory of Jeanette Graham Hackworth
The Harper Family	In memory of John Carsten Harper
Robert & Anne Harrington	In memory of Nancy & Grosvenor Nicholson In thanksgiving for Anne Hager Harrington
John Peters Irelan	In memory of George Morris Irelan, Susan Peters Irelan, and George Morris Irelan, Jr.
Anne & Loren Kieve	In memory of Ruth Hughes, David Hughes, Wilson Hughes, Pauline Kieve, Rudolph Kieve, Kathryn Kieve, and Beth March In thanksgiving for their children, their children's spouses, and their grandchildren
Kenny Kraft	In memory of John Kraft & Nita Gavaris Kraft
Lisa Kirchenbauer	In thanksgiving for John, David, and Robert Kirchenbauer
RJ Lyerly	In memory of John & Maria Casale, Walker Lyerly III, and Mildred Lippard
Clayton McCleskey	In thanksgiving for Rob Fisher
Susan & Raymond Petniunas	In memory of Ignas Petniunas
Sandy and Susan Sierck	In memory of Barbara Mann Arthur, James Walburg Arthur, Phebe Ann Sierck, Herbert Wentworth Sierck
Gail Berry West	In memory of Togo D. West
Suzanne Whitmore	In memory of John R. Whitmore

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Wednesday, December 25—Christmas Day

11 a.m. Eucharist with Hymns—
Sermon by the Rev. Will Morris

*No nursery or valet parking available on Christmas Day.
The Church and Parish Office will close after the service.*

Thursday, December 26—Parish Office closed

No noontime service on Thursday, December 26.

Friday, December 27—Parish Office closed

No noontime service on Friday, December 27.

Sunday, December 29

8 a.m. Eucharist with Sermon by
the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell
9 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon
by the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell
11 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon
by the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell
Children's Chapel (Children begin in church)

*No Adult Bible Study. No nursery, Church School, or Youth
Group. Children's Chapel will be offered at the 11 a.m. service.*

COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR

EPIPHANY PARTY FOR KIDS

Sunday, January 5, at 10 a.m.

During the Church School hour, which begins at 10 a.m., infants, toddlers, and elementary aged kids are invited to the second floor of the Parish House, where we'll decorate stars, enjoy King Cake, and reflect on the story of the magi. Then, stay to watch the Three Kings' procession during the 11 a.m. service.

THREE KINGS' PROCESSION

Sunday, January 5, at 11 a.m.

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 5 with our annual, costumed procession to "We three kings of Orient are." Members of the choir will play the kings,

and young people from our congregation will accompany them as the star and pages. Join us for this special offering during the 11 a.m. service.

LATROBE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

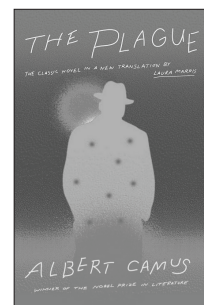
Wednesday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m.

The Latrobe Fellowship will host a Three Kings celebration on Wednesday, January 8. We'll kick things off at 6:30 p.m. with Evening Prayer, followed by a presentation on the history of Three Kings' Day, its connection to Epiphany, and how the tradition is celebrated today. Food and drinks will be served. If you're in your 20s and 30s, please come! Questions? Contact Eric Bailey, St. John's minister for youth and young adults, via the About: Leadership page of our website.

ST. JOHN'S BOOK GROUP

Thursday, January 9, at 7 p.m.

Join us via Zoom to discuss *The Plague* by Albert Camus, translated by Laura Marris. Marris's translation brings new insight into Camus' story of the townspeople of Oran, who are in the grip of a deadly plague, condemning its victims to a swift and horrifying death. The book group typically meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. For information and link, contact us online at stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory.



SPEAKER SERIES

Presidential Transitions: Sunday, January 12, at 10 a.m.



David Marchick, Dean of the Kogod School of Business at American University, and former Director of the Center for Presidential Transition at the Partnership for Public Service, will speak about the presidential transition process. The Speaker Series is held most Sundays from September through May. An audio recording will be available on our website the week after the talk.

GRACE'S TABLE

Third Saturdays, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Upcoming Dates: January 18 and February 15

Grace's Table is an outreach partnership between St. John's and Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown. Every third Saturday of the month, a group from St. John's prepares and serves a meal at Grace to folks who are unhoused or

at risk of losing their housing. Questions? Contact leader Elizabeth Field via the Connect: Ministry Directory tab of our website, or volunteer at bit.ly/sjc-graces-table-1224.

EPIPHANYTIDE LESSONS AND CAROLS

**Sunday, January 19, at 5:30 p.m.,
at Christ Church, Georgetown**

The combined professional choirs of St. John's, Lafayette Square, and Christ Church, Georgetown, will offer a joint service of Epiphanytide Lessons and Carols on Sunday, January 19. The service includes readings interspersed with seasonal hymns and choral anthems. A reception follows. Note that this year the service will be held at Christ Church (3116 O Street, NW). We hope you'll join us for this annual collaboration with a neighboring parish as we observe the joyous season of Epiphany.

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY

PLEDGE TO ST. JOHN'S

Thank you to all who have already pledged for 2025. Pledging impacts the growth of our programs to better serve the parish and community. All pledges are welcome, no matter how big or small. You can pledge either with a physical pledge card, available at the front desk or in the narthex of the church, or by visiting stjohns-dc.org/give/pledge to complete an online pledge form. Thank you!

BAPTISMS

If you are interested in baptism for yourself or for a child, please contact Lisa Koehler via the About: Leadership tab on our website. The parents or grandparents of children being baptized must be active, pledging members of St. John's. Adults interested in baptism must also attend an Inquirers' Class, which is offered twice a year, and be active, pledging participants in the life of the parish. Upcoming dates for baptism and required pre-baptismal classes St. John's are:

Sunday, January 12, 2025, at 9 a.m.

Class: Saturday, January 11, at 10 a.m.

Sunday, February 9, at 9 a.m.

Class: Saturday, February 8, at 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 27, at 9 a.m.

Class: Saturday, April 26, at 10 a.m.

REMINDERS

NURSERY HOURS

Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Infants and children are welcome at all worship services. Nursery care is also available most Sundays for infants and children up to age three. The nursery meets in the Godly Play Classroom #2 on the second floor of the Parish House.

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES & YOUTH GROUP

Sundays, 10–10:50 a.m.

Children in pre-K through fifth grade may participate in Church School classes. Middle and high school youth are invited for an exploration of life and faith with their peers. Questions? Contact Sarah Akers-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sundays during 11 a.m. worship

Children from birth through grade 5 are invited to participate in a special liturgy just for them during the sermon at the 11 a.m. service. Children gather by the pulpit during the gradual hymn and process to the Parish House for a song, homily, and prayer time, returning to the sanctuary at the Peace. Children are also welcome to stay and worship in the main sanctuary. Questions? Contact the Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

Other opportunities for children and youth include singing in the St. John's Chorister Program and serving as an acolyte. Visit www.stjohns-dc.org for full details.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sundays at 10 a.m.

This group gathers most Sunday mornings, using a hybrid approach, with some joining via Zoom and others in person. Contact leader Jack Reiffer via our online Ministry Directory found at stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory.

JOIN A MINISTRY GROUP

Explore our many ministry groups at www.stjohns-dc.org, and contact the leaders via our online Ministry Directory for details or to sign up.

WELCOME!

At St. John's Church, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

St. John's was organized in 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

If you are visiting, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

St. John's website (www.stjohns-dc.org) has up-to-date information about the church including the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, and newsworthy events.

Vestry

Nora Rigby, *Senior Warden*

Alfred Thesmar, *Junior Warden*

Tony Anikeeff, Krista Rimple Bradley, Kaye Edwards,
Wendy J. Fibison, David Gallalee, Fruzsina Harsanyi,
Elizabeth Cavert Morrison, Ucheora Onwuamaegbu,
Jack Reiffer, Matthew Taylor, and Jess Unger,
Members

Casey Evans, *Treasurer*

Nora Haugh, *Assistant Treasurer*

Allie Raether, *Secretary*

Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher

James H. Czerwonky

Heads of Flower Guild

Pat Dalby and Katherine Kyle

Head Greeters

Eleanor and Peter Odom

Worship and Program Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, *Associate Rector*

The Rev. William Morris, *Assisting Priest*
for Engaging Local Communities

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lyn Loewi, *Associate Organist*

Eric Bailey, *Minister for Youth and Young Adults*

Staff

Preston Cherouny, *Chief Operating Officer*

Charley Griffin, *Operations Manager*

Lisa Koehler, *Program Associate and*
Executive Assistant to the Rector

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant, David Gamboa, and John Queer
Assistant Sextons

Anne Stone, *Publications*

ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's shines as a beacon of God's love through faith, worship, care, and community,
and offers a place of grace at our historic corner in the nation's capital.

Parish House

1525 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-1005

(202) 347-8766 ♦ www.stjohns-dc.org