

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025 ♦ Pageant & Holy Eucharist at 4:30 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.
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.
Please remember to silence your cell phone and refrain from taking photos or videos during services.
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 in memory of Dick Ellison and Samuel J. Watson III.*

PRELUDE MUSIC

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

CAROL *Sung by the choir.*

In dulci jubilo

arr. R.L. Pearsall (1795–1856)

In dulci jubilo, let us our homage show,
our heart's joy reclineth *in praesepe*,
and like a bright star shineth *Matris in gremio*.
Alpha es et O.

In sweet jubilation
in the manger
in the mother's lap
Thou art Alpha and Omega

O Jesu parvule! I yearn for thee alway!
Hear me, I beseech thee, *O Puer optime!*
My pray'r let it reach thee, *O Princeps gloriae;*
traheme post te.

O tiny Jesus
O best of children
O Prince of glory
draw me after thee

O Patris caritas! O Nati lenitas!
Deep were we stained, *per nostra crimina;*
But thou hast for us gained *coelorum gaudia!*
O that we were there!

O love of the father! O gentleness of the son!
through our crimes
the joys of heaven

Ubi sunt gaudia, where, if they be not there?
There were angels singing *nova cantica!*
And there the bells are ringing *in Regis curia.*
O that we were there!

Where are joys
new songs
in the courts of the King

—Traditional German carol

HYMN 105 *Sung by all from the hymnal, seated.*

God rest you merry, gentlemen

CAROL *Sung by the choir.*

The holly and the ivy

arr. Matthew Owens (b. 1971)

The holly and the ivy when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown.

*The rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir:*

The holly bears a blossom, as white as any flower,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our sweet Savior. *Refrain*

The holly bears a berry, as red as any blood,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. *Refrain*

The holly bears a prickles, as sharp as any thorn,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas day in the morn. *Refrain*

The holly bears a bark, as bitter as any gall,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all. *Refrain*

—*Traditional English carol*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Whence is that goodly fragrance?

Harrison Oxley (1933–2009)

CAROL *Sung by the choir.*

The Huron Carol

arr. Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria.*

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found,
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria.*

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria.*

O children of the forest free, O Sons of Manitou,
the Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you;
come kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy,
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, *in excelsis gloria.*

—*Traditional Canadian carol*

HYMN 99 *Sung by all from the hymnal, seated.*

Go tell it on the mountain

CAROL *Sung by the choir.*

The Sussex Carol

arr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad since our Redeemer made us glad?
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore. Amen!

—*Traditional English carol*

HARP

Interlude from *A Ceremony of Carols*

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

HARP

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

arr. James Bingham (b. 1945)

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 of God, Light of Light,
3 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
4 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
5 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le hem;
 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 leav - ing their flocks draw nigh with low - ly fear;
 fain - we em - brace thee, with awe and love;
 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove;
 Je - su, to thee be glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
 Ve - ry God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted:
 We too will thi - ther bend our joy - ful foot - steps:
 Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

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.

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.**

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.**

WELCOME

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

Please be seated for the duration of the pageant, including the hymns.

THE ANNUNCIATION

HYMN 265 *Sung by all, seated.*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

HYMN 79 *Sung by all, seated.*

O little town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,

1 A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908).

THE SHEPHERDS

HYMN 109 *Sung by all, seated.*

The first Nowell the angel did say

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
2 They look - ed up and saw a star

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
2 and to the earth it gave their great light,

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.

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

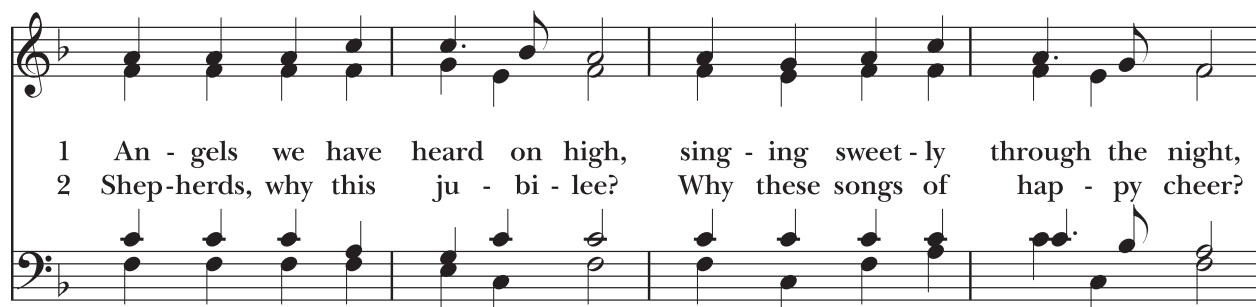
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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 ANGELS

HYMN 96 *Sung by all, seated.*

Angels we have heard on high



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?



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?

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 ADORATION

HYMN 101 *Sung by all, seated.*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,


the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.

Words: Traditional carol. Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

WONDER AND MAJESTY

HYMN 87 *Sung by all, seated.*

Hark! the herald angels sing



1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!

Refrain



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

THE PEACE

Please stand as you are able.

Priest and Cast May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

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

O holy night

Adolphe Adam (1803–1856)

Sung by the choir.

arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming; with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here come the wise men from the Orient land,
the King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger! Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace;
chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise his Holy Name!
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we! His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!

—*Cappeau de Roquemaure (1808–1877)*

HYMN 107

Good Christian friends, rejoice

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

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 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 (1932–2025)

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

O magnum mysterium

T.L. da Victoria (c. 1548–1611)

Sung by the choir.

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepe! Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia.

O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in their manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

—*Traditional Latin*

COMMUNION ANTHEM

In the bleak midwinter

Harold Darke (1888–1976)

Sung by the choir.

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain,
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty—Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom Angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and Archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged the air;
but only his Mother in her maiden bliss
worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

—*Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)*

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 unlit 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



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

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

Toccata on *Antioch*

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

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

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE
PRODUCTION OF THIS EVENING'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Volunteer Leadership Susan Cardwell
 Katherine Rabb
 Elizabeth Thesmar

CAST

Narrators Gloria Burkhardt
 Ugo Owunwanne
 Cooper Thesmar
 Lily Venzke
Mary Caroline Weng
Joseph Derek Owunwanne
Baby Jesus Grace Kozlowski
Baby John TJ Copeland
Elizabeth Molly Raab
Donkey Lauren Raab
Gabriel Georgia Rawlings
Star of Bethlehem Margot Kieve

SHEPHERDS & FRIENDLY BEASTS

Samuel Akes-Cardwell Charlie Rawlings
William Hughes Gus Rawlings
Gus Johnson Kristian Robischon
Jack Kozlowski Beau Sanchez
Emma Neville Eloise Sheeler
Ford Neville

ANGELS

Emma Hughes Amara Onwunwanne
Olivia Hughes Chiemezie Onwunwanne
Matilda Jeffries Nmesoma Onwunwanne

ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE

Anya Kleymenova, *Crucifer*

Cooper Thesmar and Lily Venzke, *Acolytes*

Kevin Cordova-Brookey and Debby Hailey, *Chalice Bearers*

Richard Young, *Assistant Head Usher*

Brian Cordova-Brookey and John Schutz, *Ushers*

Pat Dalby, Jamie Finch, Ellie Fullerton, Julia Koster, Katherine Kyle,

Elizabeth Lewis, and Sherill Mason, *Flower Guild*

Jeremy Sheeler, *Livestream Operator*

PARISH CHOIR

Annette Anfinrud, Elissa Edwards, Whitley Herndon, Kerry Holahan,
Helena Upshaw, Christina Wilson, Tory Wood, and Kitty Zhou, *Sopranos*

Alison Adkins, Adrin Akins, Bonnie Alger, Barbara Burkhardt, Cay Buser,
Thea Crouch, Wendy J. Fibison, Sara Josey, Lisa Koehler, Jennifer Mathews,
Katherine McClintic, LaFleur Paysour, Emma Shealy, and Margo Wiegenstein, *Altos*

Philip Anfinrud, Craig Burkhardt, David Evans, Austin Jordan, Tom Kingsley,
Carlos Reyes, Nathaniel Roper, William Yale, and William Watson, *Tenors*

Jeff Bozman, Justin Dean, Matt Ford, Christopher Jones,
Bill Josey, Nathan Lofton, and Vincent Scauzzo, *Basses*

Gréta Ásgiersson, *Harp*

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 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sundays; look for the valet sign at the corner of 16th and H streets, NW. | Find us on **Instagram** at @stjohnschurchlafayettesquare or visit **stjohns-dc.org** for more about our offerings and how to get in touch.

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Betsy Danello	In memory of Christopher W. Danello
William E. Davis	In memory of Martha Davis Warren In thanksgiving for Josiah & Julia
Martha Ellison	In memory of Al Kirchenbauer, Margaret Kirchenbauer, and Dick Ellison
Ellie Fullerton & Kayla Powell	In memory of Robert Leon Schultz, Jr., and Randall B. Fullerton
The Harper Family	In memory of John Carsten Harper and Barbara Quarles Harper
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, Kathy Kieve, and Beth March In thanksgiving for David Kieve & Kate Bedingfield and their children, Hugh and Margot Kieve; Andrew & Bronwyn Kieve and their children, Rudy, Sonny, and Frankie Kieve; Alex & Arianne Kieve and their daughter, Robyn Kieve; and Kate Kieve
Lisa Kirchenbauer	In thanksgiving for John, David, and Robert Kirchenbauer
Kenny Kraft	In memory of John Kraft & Nita Gavaris Kraft and Mary-Stuart Montague Price
Grant Kraus	In memory of Frederick T., & Marelaine V. Kraus
RJ Lyerly	In thanksgiving for Mr. & Mrs. John Casale, Mrs. Mildred Lippard, and Walker Lyerly, III
A. Richard Metzger	In memory of Lucile K. Metzger, A. Richard Metzger, III, Seth X. Metzger, and Mark K. Metzger
Ray & Susan Petniunas	In memory of Dominick Fracaroli
Anthony J. Purcell, Jr.	In memory of Daniel Espejel and Anthony J. Purcell, Sr.
Susan and Sandy Sierck	In memory of Barbara Mann Arthur, James Walburg Arthur, Phebe Ann Sierck, Herbert Wentworth Sierck
Gail West	In memory of Togo D. West

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Wednesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

- 4:30 p.m. Pageant & Choral Eucharist with Harp
- 7 p.m. Festal Choral Eucharist with Strings—
Sermon by the Rev. Rob Fisher
- 10 p.m. Festal Choral Eucharist with Incense and
Strings—Sermon by the Rev. Rob Fisher

Each service on Christmas Eve will be preceded by 30 minutes of carols and music. Come early and enjoy!

Nursery will be available for the 4:30 p.m. service only.

Thursday, December 25—Christmas Day

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

No nursery or valet parking.

The Parish Office will close after the service.

Friday, December 26—Parish Office closed

No noontime service.

Sunday, December 28

- 8 a.m. Eucharist with Sermon
- 9 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon
- 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon

The Rev. Rob Fisher will preach on December 28.

No Adult Bible Study. No nursery, Church School, or Youth Group. Children's Chapel will be offered at 9 and 11 a.m.

Monday, December 29—Parish Office closed

No noontime service.

Tuesday, December 30—Normal office hours

Wednesday, December 31—New Year's Eve

- 1 p.m. Parish Office closes

Thursday, January 1, 2026—New Year's Day

Parish Office closed. No noontime service.

Friday, January 2—Normal office hours

COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR

THREE KINGS' PROCESSION

Sunday, January 4, at 11 a.m.

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 4 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. *Note: This service will include incense.*

HELP US RING IN THE NEW YEAR

Parish Potluck: Sunday, January 4, at noon

On Sunday, January 4, after the 11 a.m. service, we are hosting a special Three Kings-themed parish potluck. You are invited to bring your favorite New Year's or Epiphany dish—or any other favorite food—or just your abundant good cheer—to share as we celebrate the arrival of the magi and the year 2026.

LATROBE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

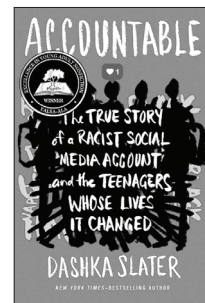
Wednesday, January 7, at 6:30 p.m.

The Latrobe Fellowship is an active and engaged group of adults, primarily in their 20s and 30s. We typically gather at St. John's at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month for a short worship service followed by an activity. Contact the Rev. Eric Bailey, our minister for youth and young adults, via the About: Leadership tab of our website for more information.

ST. JOHN'S BOOK GROUP

Thursday, January 8, at 7 p.m.

Please join us via Zoom to discuss *Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed* by Dashka Slater. This award-winning book raises difficult questions about accountability and the very real harm that can be caused from behind a screen. The book group typically meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. For information and the link, contact us via the directory at stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory.



SPEAKER SERIES

Sunday, January 11, at 10 a.m.



Jeff Selingo, New York Times best-selling author and college admissions expert, talks about his books *Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions* and *Dream School: Finding the College That's Right for You*.

GRACE'S TABLE

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

Upcoming dates: January 17 and February 21

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. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other St. John's parishioners and to spread God's loving kindness in our community. Contact leader Elizabeth Field using the Connect: Ministry Directory tab of our website with questions or to volunteer.



PHOTO: PAUL LEW/FLICKR/CC-BY-NC-ND 2.0

EPIPHANYTIDE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, January 18, at 5:30 p.m.

The combined professional choirs of St. John's, Lafayette Square, and Christ Church, Georgetown, will offer a joint service of Epiphanytide Lessons and Carols at St. John's on Sunday, January 18. The service includes readings interspersed with seasonal hymns and choral anthems. A reception follows. 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

FOR THOSE SEEKING TO BE BAPTIZED

If you are interested in baptism for yourself or for a child, please contact Lisa Koehler via the About: Leadership tab on our website. Please note that 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 Adult Inquirers' Class, offered twice a year, and be active, pledging participants in the life of the parish. Upcoming dates for baptism and required pre-baptismal classes with the clergy at St. John's include:

Sunday, January 11, 2026, at 11 a.m.

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

Sunday, February 15, at 9 a.m.

Class: Saturday, February 14, at 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 12, at 9 a.m.

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

PLEASE PLEDGE TO ST. JOHN'S

Thank you to all who have already pledged for 2026. Pledging today, if you have not yet done so, will help us determine what the budget will be in the coming year. A pledge is a commitment of financial support for the upcoming year. It can be a one-time annual payment, or it can be paid weekly, monthly, or on the schedule of your choosing. Pledges enable us to plan for the work we will undertake in the mission and ministry of St. John's in 2026. Make your pledge online on our website (stjohns-dc.org/give/pledge) or return a pledge card either by mail to the church office or by placing it in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you for your financial commitment to our parish!

Pledge envelopes are available for pickup at the reception desk.

FEDERAL WORKERS | Giving or receiving support

Many of our parishioners have been affected by layoffs in the federal government. If you are seeking help—or if you have help to offer—please complete our survey at bit.ly/sjc-federal-survey with the details of what you need or can provide. Or reach out to Jordan Baugh, our point person for this ministry, via the Ministry Directory on our website.

HEARING AID RECYCLING DRIVE

Place donations in the box near the reception desk

As you may be aware, hearing aids are extremely expensive. One study conducted by the National Institutes of Health determined that hearing aids were unaffordable for three-fourths of Americans with functional hearing loss. And the evidence is clear that hearing affects mental acuity as we age. For his Eagle Scout project, Cooper Thesmar is organizing the collection of hearing aid devices that are no longer needed, which will be cleaned, restored or refurbished, and given to those in need. All brands, models, and ages are welcome, and donation receipts can be provided on request.

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

Sundays, 10–10:50 a.m., from September through May

Children in pre-K through fifth grade may participate in Church School on the second floor of the Parish House. For information, contact the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays, 10–10:50 a.m., from September through May

Most Sundays from September through May, middle and high school youth are invited to the second floor of the Parish House for an exploration of life and faith with their peers. Questions? Contact the Rev. Eric Bailey via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sundays during the sermon at 9 and 11 a.m. worship

Most Sundays, kids from birth through grade 5 are invited to participate in a special liturgy just for them during the sermon at 9 and 11 a.m. services. All who wish 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. Parents may accompany their children and are encouraged to do so for those younger than three. Children are also welcome to stay and worship in the main sanctuary. Questions? Contact the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

THE ACOLYTE MINISTRY | September through May

Youth in 6th grade and above are welcome to participate during worship services, serving as torch bearers or crucifers and helping set the altar for communion. Contact Vincent Scauzzo via stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory for details.

CHORISTER PROGRAM | September through May

We offer a choir for children and youth with unchanged (treble) voices. Through a custom-made curriculum, singers receive training in sight reading, vocal production, music theory, liturgy, and leadership, and become part of a vibrant community of music makers. To learn more or express interest, contact Brent Erstad via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY | Most Sundays at 10 a.m.

This group gathers most Sunday mornings, using a hybrid approach, with some joining via Zoom and others in person. Conversations explore the connections with the Sunday lectionary lessons and sermons. We are currently studying the first chapters of Matthew, and the book of Genesis. For information, notes, and the Zoom link, contact Jack Reiffer via the Ministry Directory at stjohns-dc.org.

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.

LISTEN AGAIN TO SUNDAY SERMONS

To listen to past sermons or speaker series, visit our website, scan this QR code, or search for “St. John’s Church, Lafayette Square” in the Podcast app on your device.



LIVESTREAMED SERVICES

The weekly 11 a.m. Sunday service (10:30 a.m. in summer) is broadcast and available for replay on our website, as are the monthly evensong and occasional other special services and events.

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 neighborhood 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 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 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 Leadership & Members

Nora Rigby, *Senior Warden*

Alfred Thesmar, *Junior Warden*

Tony Anikeeff, Brian Cordova-Brookey,
Kaye Edwards, Casey Evans, Debby Hailey,

Fruzsina Harsanyi, Julia Koster,

Ucheora Onwuamaegbu, Jack Reiffer,
Matthew Taylor, and Jess Unger, *Members*

Anya Kleymenova, *Treasurer*

Allie Raether, *Secretary*

Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher—James H. Czerwonky

Head Greeters—Eleanor and Peter Odom

Heads of Flower Guild

Pat Dalby and Katherine Kyle

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, *Associate Rector
for Family Ministry and Pastoral Care*

The Rev. Eric Bailey, *Assistant Priest for Parish Life
and New Member Ministry*

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

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Linda Morgan Stowe and John Chappell Stowe,
Interim Assistant Organists

Preston Cherouny, *Chief Operating Officer*

Charley Griffin, *Parish Administrator*

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

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant, David Gamboa, and John Queen,
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