

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024 ♦ 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.

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
concupies 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 celesti 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 saviour 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

HARP

Interlude from *Ceremony of Carols*

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)

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 99 *Sung by all from the hymnal.*

Go tell it on the mountain

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,

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;

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;

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.**

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

HYMN 76 *Sung by all, seated.*

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

HYMN 79 *Sung by all, seated.*

O little town of Bethlehem

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Alto) and piano accompaniment. It is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff for the piano accompaniment and a single staff for the vocal parts. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff. The first system includes the title 'O little town of Bethlehem' in the right margin. The second system includes the title 'O little town of Bethlehem' in the right margin. The third system includes the title 'O little town of Bethlehem' in the right margin. The fourth system includes the title 'O little town of Bethlehem' in the right margin.

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.

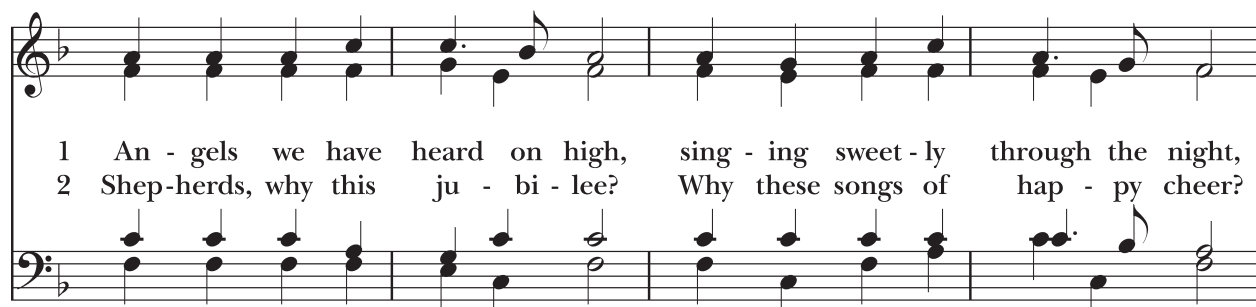
Refrain
No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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 - - - - -



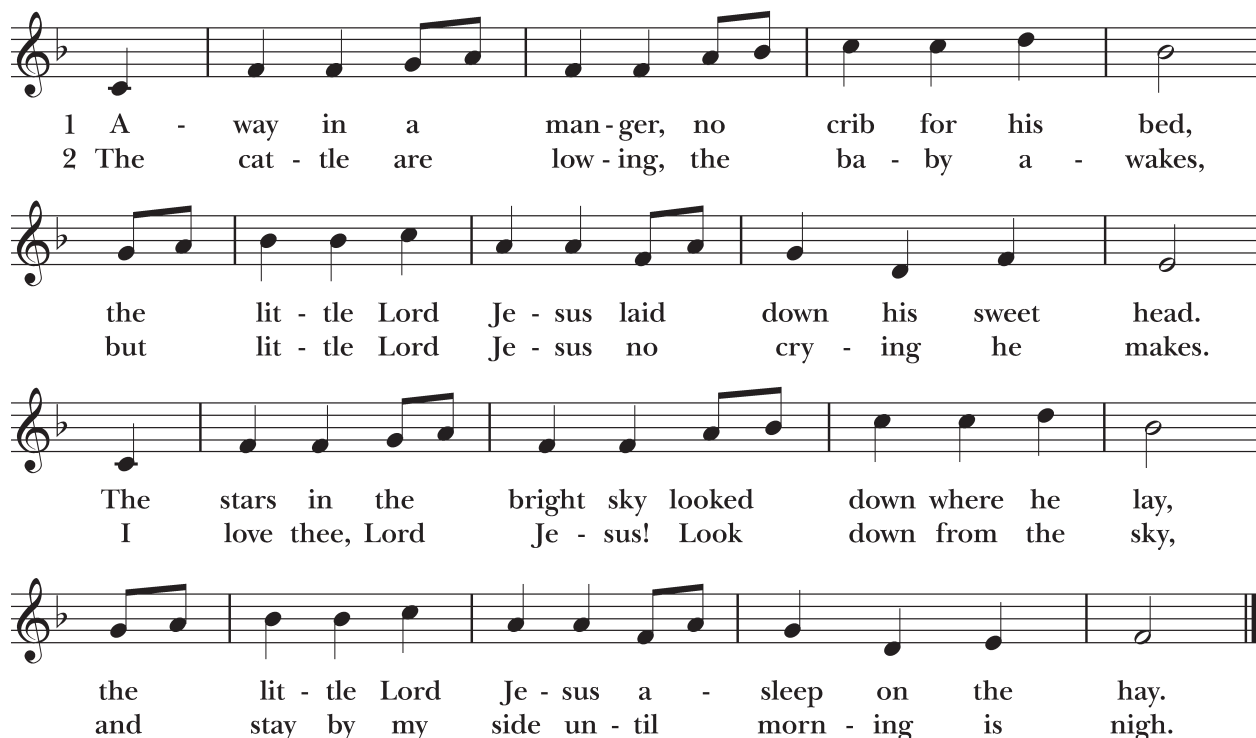
- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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



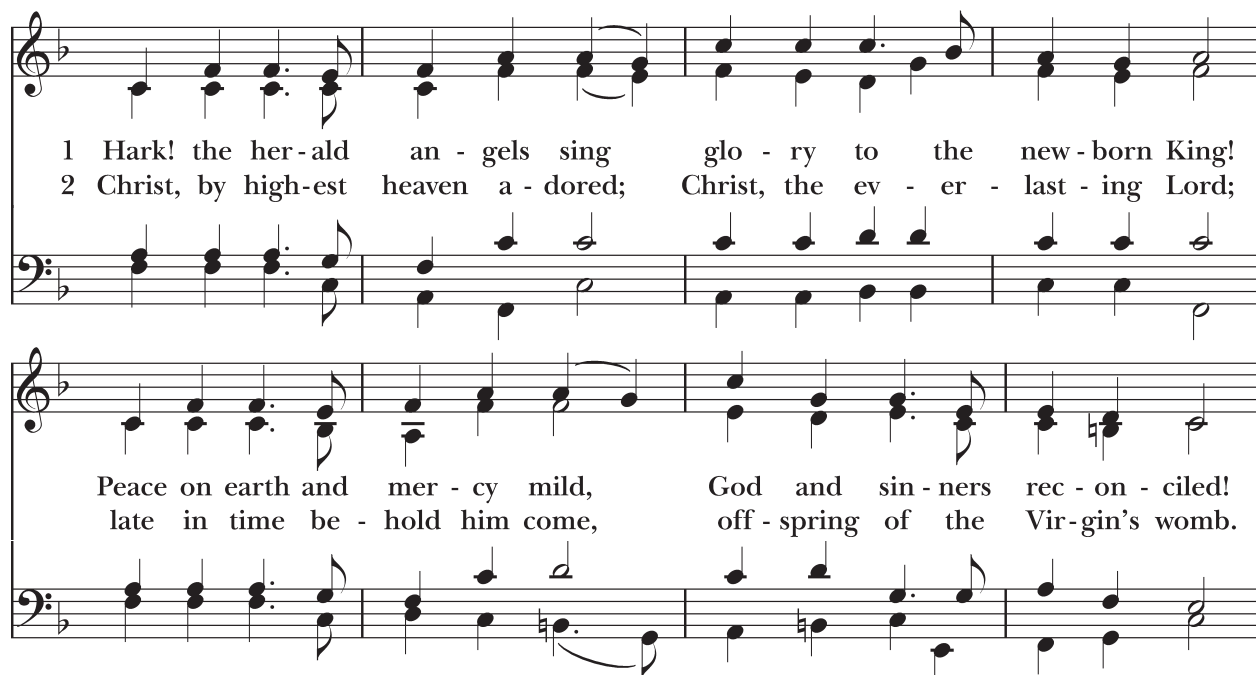
1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down 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

Ding! dong! merrily on high

Traditional French Carol

Sung by the choir.

arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

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 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 (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

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

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming

Sung by all from the hymnal, seated.

HYMN 115

What child is this, who, laid to rest

Sung by all from the hymnal, seated.

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. born! birth. Sleep Christ, in hea - ven - ly peace.
the Sa - vior, is born! 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.

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, 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

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.

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

<i>Director</i>	Katherine Raab
<i>Wardrobe Coordinator</i>	Susan Cardwell
<i>Volunteer Helpers</i>	Anna Ehrich
	Laura Herzog
	Felicia Owunwanne
	Elizabeth Thesmar

CAST

<i>Narrators</i>	Gloria Burkhardt
	Walker Crochet
	Zoe Fisher
	John Noonan
	Cooper Thesmar
	Lily Venzke
<i>Mary</i>	Olivia Hughes
<i>Joseph</i>	Ugo Owunwanne
<i>Baby Jesus</i>	Martin Stock
<i>Baby John</i>	Eloise Sheeler
<i>Elizabeth</i>	Caroline Weng
<i>Donkey</i>	Lauren Raab
<i>Gabriel</i>	Lizzie Ehrich
<i>Star of Bethlehem</i>	Molly Raab
<i>Lead Shepherd</i>	Walton Ehrich

SHEPHERDS

George Ehrich	Andrew Noonan
Hugh Kieve	William Stolar

FRIENDLY BEASTS

Samuel Akes-Cardwell	Gus Rawlings
Peter Holder	Jude Repko
William Hughes	Kristian Robischon
John Kozlowski	Helen Stock
Charlie Rawlings	

ANGELS

Emma Hughes	Derek Owunwanne
Matilda Jeffries	Georgia Rawlings
Margot Kieve	Charlotte Rhodes
Juliana More	Quincy Rhodes
Olivia More	Natalie Stolar

ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE

Anya Kleymenova, *Crucifer*

Gloria Burkhardt and Cooper Thesmar, *Acolytes*

Mark Cardwell, Kevin Cordova-Brookey, Debby Hailey, and Annie Simonds, *Chalice Bearers*

Jeff Agnew, Matt Bode, and Richard Young, *Assistant Head Ushers*

Brian Cordova-Brookey and John Herzog, *Ushers*

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

Ryan Wagner, *Livestream Operator*

PARISH CHOIR

Annette Anfinrud, Elissa Edwards, Kerry Holahan,
Christina Wilson, and Tory Wood, *Sopranos*

Alison Adkins, Bonnie Alger, Barbara Burkhardt, Cay Buser, Wendy J. Fibison,
Sara Josey, Lisa Koehler, Katherine McClintic, LaFleur Paysour,
Charlotte Stewart, and Margo Wiegenstein, *Altos*

Philip Anfinrud, Craig Burkhardt, David Evans, Carlos Reyes,
Andrew Sauvageau, and William Watson, *Tenors*

Jeff Bozman, Justin Dean, Christopher Jones,
Bill Josey, and Nathan Lofton, *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 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

Tuesday, 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 Strings—
Sermon by the Rev. Rob Fisher

*Nursery will be available for the 4:30 and 7 p.m. services.
Each service on Christmas Eve will be preceded by 30
minutes of carols and music. Come early and enjoy!*

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
- 9 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon
- 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon
Children's Chapel (Children begin in church)

The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell will preach on December 29.

*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.

HELP US RING IN THE NEW YEAR

Sunday, January 5, at noon

On Sunday, January 5, 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—to share as we celebrate the arrival of the magi and the year 2025.

LATROBE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

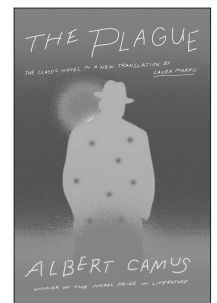
Wednesday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m.

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! The Latrobe Fellowship typically gathers 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. 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. Forced into quarantine, the town is gripped by fear, isolation, and claustrophobia. Each person responds in their own way to the lethal disease: Some resign themselves to fate, some seek to blame, and a few, like



Dr. Rieux, resist the terror. The book group typically meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. For information and the link, contact us online at stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory.

ERIC BAILEY ORDINATION

Saturday, January 11, at 10 a.m.

All are invited to the diaconal ordination of Eric Bailey, St. John's Minister for Youth and Young Adults. The service will take place at Washington National Cathedral. Eric has been serving at St. John's since the summer of 2024. He is in his senior year at Virginia Theological Seminary, graduating with his M.Div. in May 2025. On Sunday, January 12, Eric will serve as a deacon at our 9 and 11 a.m. services. Liturgically this means he will proclaim the gospel, bid the confession of sins, help prepare the altar for Communion, and offer the dismissal. Please keep Eric in your prayers, and join us in celebrating this joyous occasion.

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. Volunteers purchase and prepare food (including casseroles, rolls, salad, and dessert) and/or serve the guests. Typically, as many as 60 or 70 guests come seeking food and fellowship. This is a great chance to get to know other St. John's parishioners and to spread God's loving kindness in our community. Questions? Contact leader Elizabeth Field via the Connect: Ministry Directory tab of our website or visit bit.ly/sjc-graces-table-1224 to volunteer.

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 today, if you have not yet done so, will help determine what the budget will be in the coming year. All pledges are welcome, no matter how big or small. If you are able to increase your pledge this year, it will greatly impact the growth of our programs to better serve our entire parish community. 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. 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 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

Sundays, 10–10:50 a.m.

Children in pre-K through fifth grade may participate in Church School on the second floor of the Parish House. The Godly Play class is for children in pre-K through first grade, while kids in second through fifth grade gather in the Spark class. For information, contact the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays, 10–10:50 a.m.

All 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 Eric Bailey 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. 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

Sundays during 11 a.m. worship

Youth in 6th grade and above are welcome to participate during the 11 a.m. service, serving as torch bearers or crucifers and helping set the altar for communion. To learn more, contact us via stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory.

CHORISTER PROGRAM

The St. John's Chorister Program offers children and youth exceptional choral training, music theory education, and leadership development. We have a preparatory choir for children in grades 3–6, and an advanced (auditioned) program for young singers with unchanged voices. To learn more or express interest, contact Brent Erstad via the About: Leadership tab on our website.

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. Conversations explore the connections with the Sunday lectionary lessons and sermons. During Year C we are focusing on the structure, audience, and themes of the Gospel of Luke. For class notes and Zoom login information, 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.

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 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 Akers-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