SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

CHORAL EVENSONG

The Eve of Thanksgiving, November 25, 2026

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

Whether you are a longtime member or a visitor, we are happy to welcome you this evening. If you would like to learn more about St. John's and our presence in this city, we invite you to fill out a "Welcome" card that can be placed in the offering plate or handed to an usher. Choral Evensong is offered on the last Wednesday of most months from September through May. To see a schedule of upcoming services and events, visit our website at www.stjohns-dc.org.

Steeped in the beauty of the Anglican tradition, Evensong meets us at the even point between the active day and the restful night. It draws on the richness of monastic worship by inviting us to reflect upon scripture, to sing praises to God, and to pray. In its cadence, Evensong speaks to many of our deepest 21st-century needs, providing space for peace and for contemplation. We hope that this service, in the midst of this busy city, refreshes and restores you this evening.

SETTINGS FOR THIS EVENING

Preces and Responses—Saint Kilda Service by Gary Davison (b. 1961)
Canticles in D—George Dyson (1883–1964)

VOLUNTARY Chorale Prelude on *Nun danket alle Gott*, BWV 657 J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

INTROIT We gather together arr. Stephen Paulus (1949–2014)

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name, he forgets not his own.

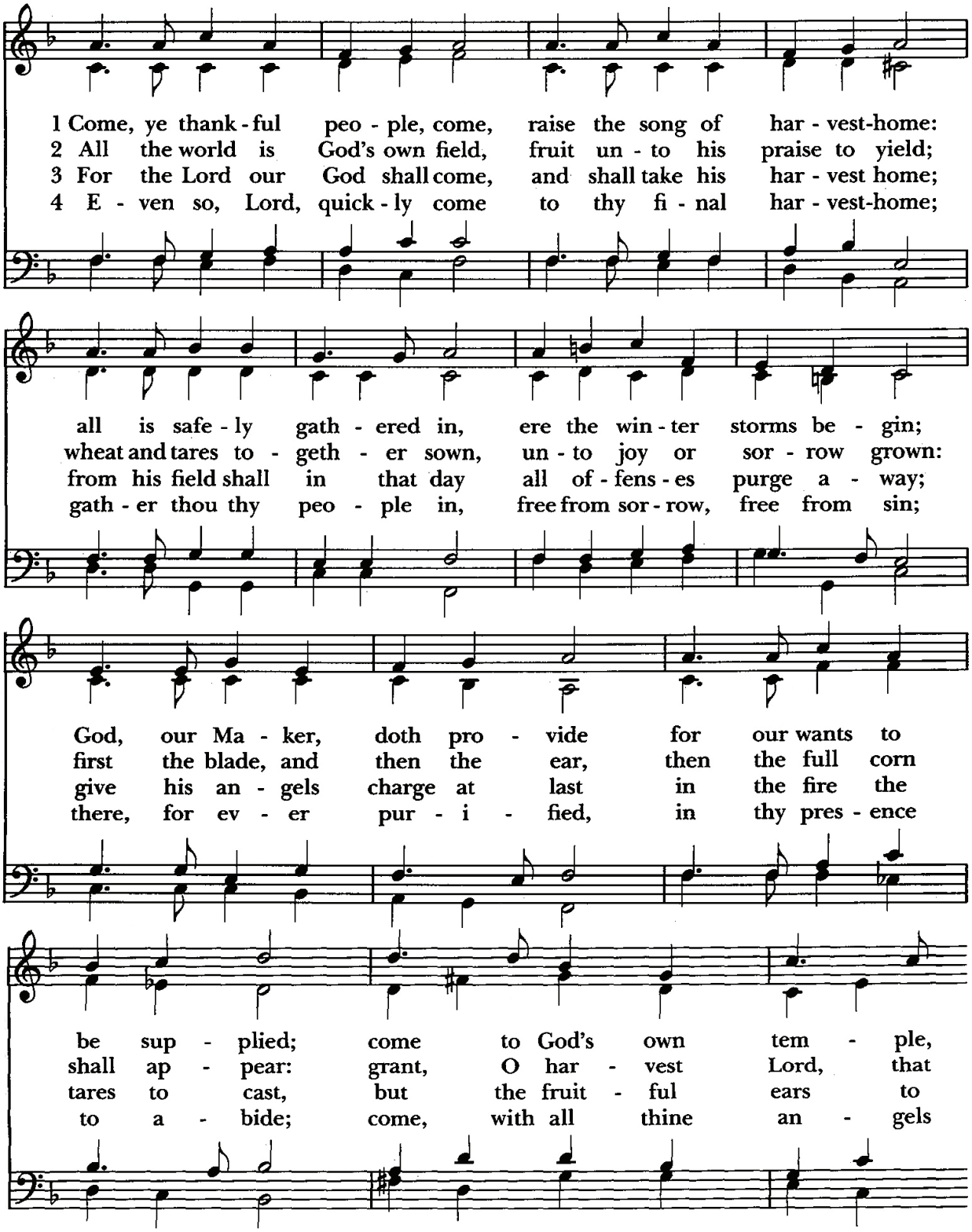
Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!

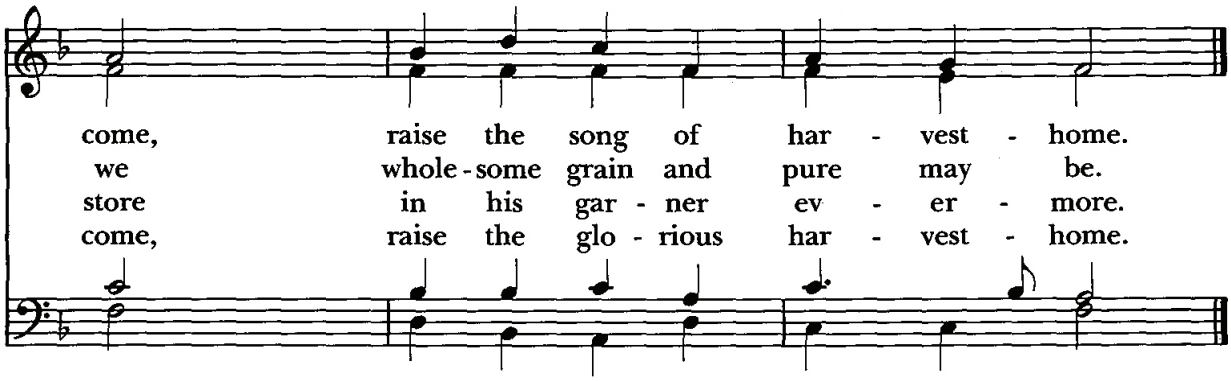
We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

—Anonymous, 1625; trans. Theodore Baker (1851–1934)

HYMN 290 Come, ye thankful people, come

Please stand as the procession enters and remain standing to sing the hymn.





Words: Henry Alford (1810–1871), alt. Music: *St. George's, Windsor*, George Job Elvey (1816–1893).

WELCOME

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

THE OPENING SENTENCES

Please remain standing.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
—Philippians 1:2

I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night.
I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.
—Psalm 16:7, 8

THE PRECES AND RESPONSES

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips;
Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us;
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.
Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

PSALM 65

Edward John Hopkins (1818–1901)

Please be seated.

Thou, O God, art praised in Sion *
and unto thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.
Thou that hearest the prayer *
unto thee shall all flesh come.
My misdeeds prevail against me *
O be thou merciful unto our sins.

Blessed is the man, whom thou choosest, and receivest unto thee *
he shall dwell in thy court, and shall be satisfied with the pleasures of thy house, even of thy holy temple.
Thou shalt shew us wonderful things in thy righteousness, O God of our salvation *
thou that art the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of them that remain in the broad sea.
Who in his strength setteth fast the mountains *
and is girded about with power.
Who stilleth the raging of the sea *
and the noise of his waves, and the madness of the people.
They also that dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth shall be afraid at thy tokens *
thou that makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to praise thee.
Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it *
thou makest it very plenteous.
The river of God is full of water *
thou preparest their corn, for so thou providest for the earth.
Thou waterest her furrows, thou sendest rain into the little valleys thereof *
thou makest it soft with the drops of rain, and blessest the increase of it.
Thou crownest the year with thy goodness *
and thy clouds drop fatness.
They shall drop upon the dwellings of the wilderness *
and the little hills shall rejoice on every side.
The folds shall be full of sheep *
the valleys also shall stand so thick with corn, that they shall laugh and sing.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE FIRST READING *Read by Will Yale.* Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Moses said to all Israel: For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE MAGNIFICAT

Sung by the choir.

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

—Luke 1:46-55

THE SECOND READING

Read by Riley Temple.

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Sung by the choir.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word,
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

—Luke 2:29-32

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Sung by all on a monotone, standing as you are able.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.
Choir And with thy spirit.
Officiant Let us pray.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung by the choir.

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. Amen.

THE SUFFRAGES

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Officiant O Lord, save the State;
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.
Officiant O Lord, save thy people;
Choir And bless thine inheritance.
Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.
Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us;
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS

Officiant Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Choir Amen.

Officiant Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior.
Choir Amen.

Officiant Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Choir Amen.

HOMILY

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

Please remain standing until invited to sit.

An offering to support the ministry of St. John's Church will be collected during the singing of the anthem. You may make an offering by placing your donation in the plate or using this QR code to pay electronically.

If you regularly attend choral evensong and are so moved, we invite you to make an annual pledge to St. John's. A pledge is a commitment of financial support, payable on a schedule of your choosing, that helps leadership plan the ministry undertaken by the parish over the coming year. Learn more or indicate your support at ***stjohns-dc.org/give/pledge****.*

THE ANTHEM

Jubilate Deo — William Walton (1902–1983)

Sung by the choir.

O be joyful in the LORD, all ye lands:
serve the LORD with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the LORD he is God;
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise;
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the LORD is gracious, his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. *—Psalm 100*

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

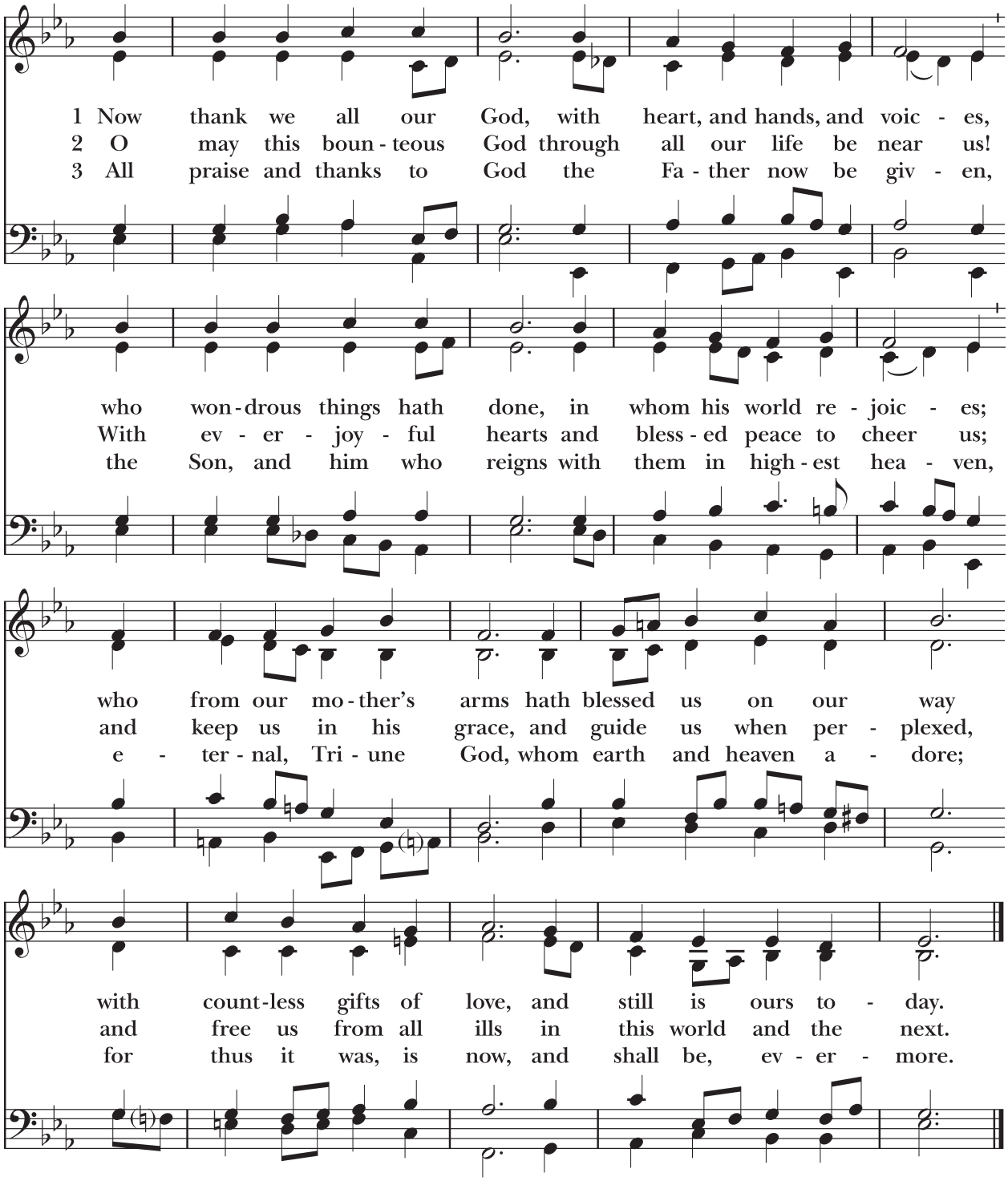
Said by all, standing as you are able.

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.
People **Amen.**

HYMN 397 *Sung by all, remaining standing as you are able.* Now thank we all our God



Words: Martin Rinkart (1586-1649); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Nun danket alle Gott*, melody Johann Cruger (1598-1662); harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), after Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1947).

VOLUNTARY Now thank we all our God J. S. Bach, arr. Virgil Fox (1912–1980)

All are invited to a reception in Togo West Parlor immediately following the service.

Shortly afterward, members of St. John's Pride will gather for drinks at Opaline at the Sofitel Hotel, just a three-minute walk from St. John's.

ADVENT AT ST. JOHN'S

COME MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH!
Sunday, November 29, at 10 a.m.

Join in an annual tradition at St. John's suitable for all ages. Using seasonal greens, we will make decorative wreaths that double as devotional aids during the Advent season. Materials will be provided for each household to make one wreath, and a few "take and make" bags will be available for those who cannot stay to make a wreath. You're encouraged to bring your own clippers if you have them. Contact Lauren Goodyear via the About: Leadership tab of our website with questions. This activity will take the place of Sunday School and Youth Group.

ADVENT PARTY
Sunday, December 6, 5–7 p.m. | All ages welcome

Join us for one of St. John's beloved holiday events. We'll gather for food, fellowship, and joyful music, including the ever-popular carol sing-along, as well as a reading of *A Visit from St. Nicholas*, and quite possibly a surprise visit from Old Saint Nick himself! Bring your friends, your family, and your holiday spirit as we celebrate the season together. We ask that you RSVP online at bit.ly/sjc-advent-party-rsvp by Monday, November 30, if you are able—although all are welcome the day of. Willing volunteers, please contact Lisa Koehler via the staff page on our website.

ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Homilist*
The Rev. Eric Bailey, *Officiant*

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*
Chris Betts, *Associate Organist*
St. John's Choir

Kevin Cordova-Brookey, *Crucifer*
Richard Metzger, *Assistant Head Usher* | Fruzsina Harsanyi and John Schutz, *Ushers*
Susan Heil and Joanne Hutton, *Flower Guild*
Seth Gilmore, *Livestream Technician*

Please help us be good stewards of the environment.
If you do not wish to take this bulletin home after the service,
you may leave it at the end of the pew as you depart or place it in a blue recycling bin.

ARE YOU NEW TO ST. JOHN'S?

Please let us know who you are and how we can best serve you by filling out a ***"Welcome" card*** *and leaving it in the offering plate or with an usher or greeter.* ✦ ***Free valet parking*** *is available 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.*

Readings: From the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission. ✦ Music images reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701275.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S



Visit our website for more news and the full calendar of upcoming services, events, and holiday office closures.

www.stjohns-dc.org

LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 20, at 5:30 p.m.

Join the combined choirs of St. John's for one of our most beloved holiday traditions, sung in the beauty of a candlelit church. The service begins with the singing of "Once in royal David's city," followed by nine lessons interspersed with carols and choral anthems, and a reception afterward in the Togo West Parlor. Invite your friends and family for this special holiday offering. The service will also be livestreamed.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Arrive 30 minutes early for any of our Christmas Eve services to enjoy a prelude of carols and music before worship begins.

4:30 p.m. Pageant & Choral Eucharist with Choir

7 p.m. Festal Choral Eucharist
Sermon—The Rev. Rob Fisher

10 p.m. Festal Choral Eucharist with Incense
Sermon—The Rev. Rob Fisher

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

11 a.m. Choral Holy Eucharist
Sermon—The Rev. Will Morris

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 24 at 4:30 p.m.

The annual Christmas Pageant will take place on Christmas Eve beginning at 4:30 p.m. Come 30 minutes early to enjoy a prelude of anthems and carols before the start of the service. Children ages three and up are invited to participate in the pageant as an Angel, Shepherd, or Friendly Beast. All children who wish to participate should attend rehearsal on Saturday, December 19, at 9 a.m. Please contact Lauren Goodyear via the About: Leadership tab of our website for more information.

CHRISTMAS EVE FESTAL EUCHARIST

December 24 at 7 and 10 p.m. | *With incense at 10 p.m.*

Join with family, friends, and neighbors as we gather at St. John's to celebrate the birth of our Savior. The St. John's Choir will be joined by strings and organ in offering George Malcolm's charming "Mass at the Crib," along with many favorite carols. The service will conclude with the traditional singing of "Silent night" by candlelight.

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 Leadership & Members
Alfred Thesmar, *Senior Warden*
Julia Koster, *Junior Warden*

Kate Benner, Brian Cordova-Brookey, Kaye Edwards, Elizabeth Field, Debby Hailey, Fruzsina Harsanyi, Apiyo Oloya, Jack Reiffer, Brian Schoeneman, Matthew Taylor, Trey Whitworth, and Jess Unger, *Members*

Anya Kleymenova, *Treasurer*
Jane Reichard, *Assistant Treasurer*
Will Priest, *Secretary*
Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher—James H. Czerwonky
Head Greeters—Eleanor and Peter Odom

Heads of Flower Guild
Susan Heil and Zach Schutz

Clergy & Staff
The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*
The Rev. Eric Bailey, *Assistant Priest for Parish Life and New Member Ministry*
The Rev. Cn. Maurice Dyer, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. William Morris, *Assisting Priest for Engaging Local Communities*
Lauren Goodyear, *Lay Minister for Children and Families*
Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*
Christopher Betts, *Associate Organist*

John Stowe, *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
(202) 347-8766 ✦ www.stjohns-dc.org