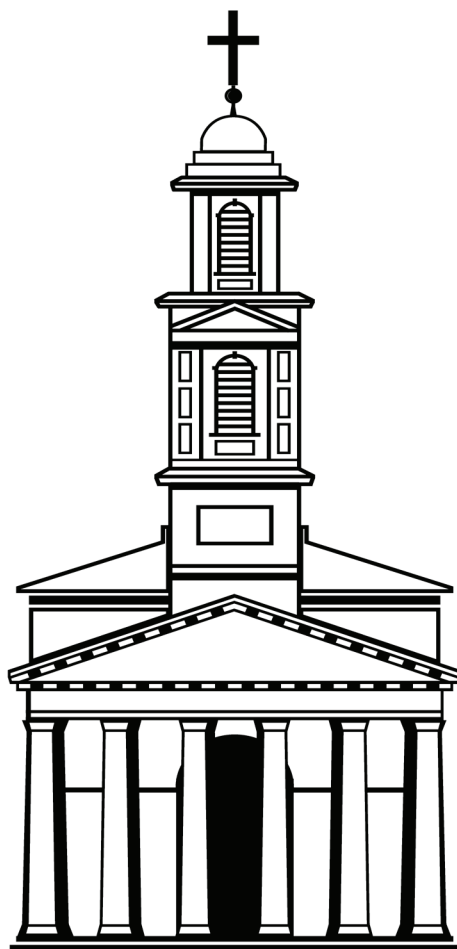


THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
November 30, 2025 ♦ Holy Eucharist at 9 and 11 a.m.



# SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

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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 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 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.*

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## THE ADVENT WREATH

As we await Christ's Advent, or "coming," we symbolically acknowledge the role of his birth in salvation history through the lighting of our Advent wreath. The Advent wreath is a circle of greenery adorned with four candles, symbolizing the four Sundays of Advent—a season of preparation and hopeful expectation for Christ's coming. Each Sunday, we light an additional candle, marking our journey from darkness into light as we draw closer to Christmas. The candles may be blue or purple, reflecting the season's themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Often the candle for the third week is pink or rose to represent joy and rejoicing as the coming of Christ comes near. On Christmas Eve, a white candle is added to the center and is known as the Christ Candle. The wreath invites us to pause, pray, and open our hearts to the light of Christ, who comes to dwell among us.

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## VOLUNTARY

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

## INTROIT

Matin Responsory

Adapted from G.P. da Palestrina

*Sung by the choir.*

(1525–1594)

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another, Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

*—Translated from the first responsory of Advent Sunday*

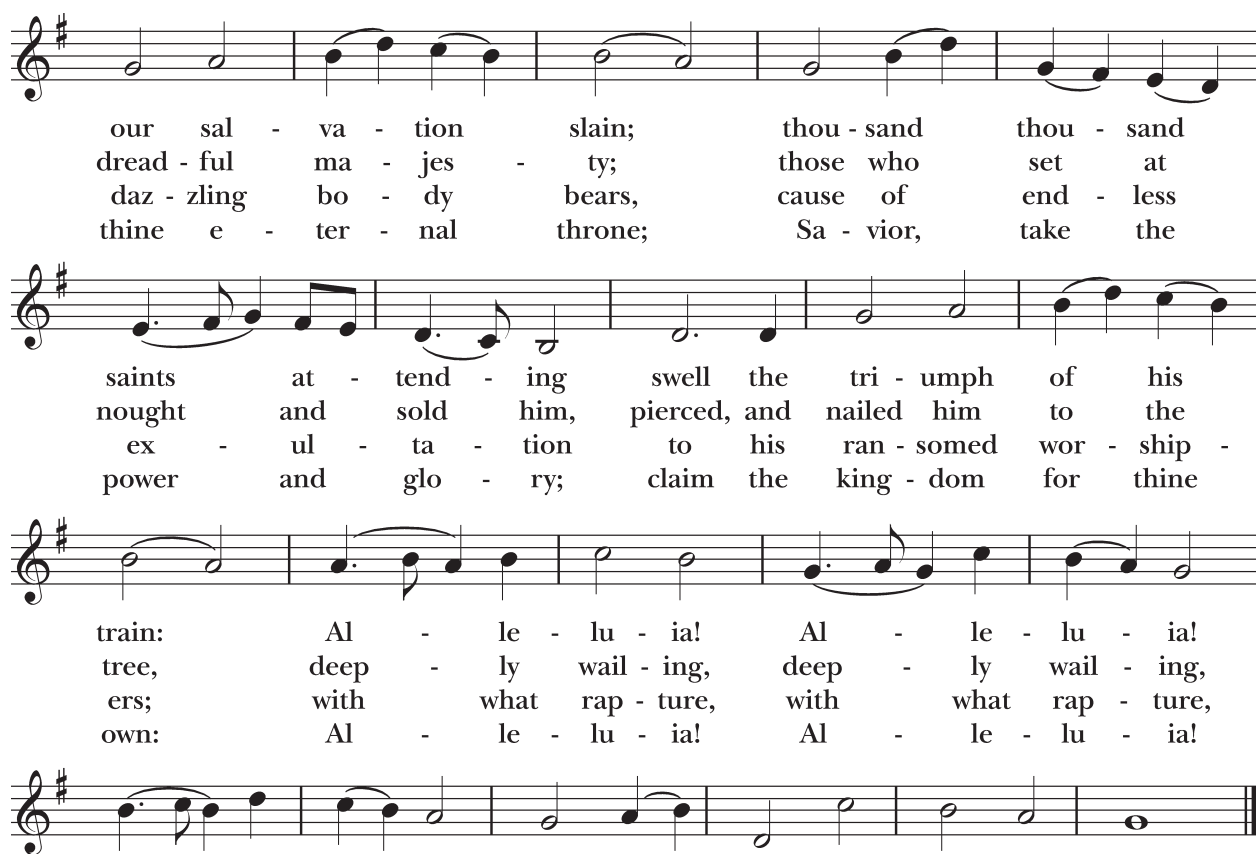
## HYMN 57

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

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



|   |                                                      |
|---|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for |
| 2 | Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in       |
| 3 | Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his     |
| 4 | Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on         |



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

## 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.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*As the first candle is lit, the following prayer is said.*

Gracious God, as we light this first candle, we open our hearts to your hope. Shine your light in our darkness, and help us wait with trust for your coming. Amen.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

*Please be seated.*

*9 a.m. Read by Richard Greene.*

*11 a.m. Read by Clark Ervin.*

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 122

9 a.m. Said responsively by half verse, led by Martha Ellison.

11 a.m. Plainsong, chanted by the choir

I was glad when they said to me, \* “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

Now our feet are standing \* within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city \* that is at unity with itself;

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, \* the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD.

For there are the thrones of judgment, \* the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \* “May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls \* and quietness within your towers.

For my brethren and companions’ sake, \* I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the LORD our God, \* I will seek to do you good.”

*Children’s Chapel in the Parish House: All who wish may gather in front of the pulpit during the following hymn and will return at the Peace. Parents are encouraged to accompany children younger than three.*

## GRADUAL HYMN 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

*Sung by all, standing as you are able. Stanza 1 will be sung before the Gospel, stanza 2 after.*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

## THE HOLY GOSPEL *Please remain standing as you are able.*

Matthew 24:36-44

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as

in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*Following the Gospel, all sing stanza 2 of the gradual hymn.*

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

## THE NICENE CREED

*Please stand as you are able.*

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

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*9 a.m. Led by Robyne Johnston.*

*Kneeling or standing as you are able.*

*11 a.m. Led by David Trebing.*

*Intercessor* Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

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

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

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

*Intercessor* We pray for the communities of St. John's and our companion relationships with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa\* and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, for St. Andrew's, College Park; St. Andrew's, Leonardtown; St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Potomac; St. Nicholas' Parish, Germantown; and Episcopal Church Women. For

Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Mariann, our Bishop; Eugene, our Assistant Bishop; and all bishops, priests, and deacons.

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

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

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

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

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

*Intercessor* We pray for . . . Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

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

*Intercessor* We pray for . . . Give to the departed eternal rest;

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

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

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

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

*Silence.*

*Priest* Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

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

*Silence.*

*All* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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

## THE PEACE

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please be seated.*



# THE HOLY COMMUNION

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



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O radiant dawn

James MacMillan (b. 1959)

*Sung by the choir.*

O radiant dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Isaiah had prophesied, "The people who walked in darkness have seen the great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." Amen.

—Antiphon for Advent

## HYMN 61 *Standing as you are able.*

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us

1 "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the  
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her  
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: "A -  
heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she  
saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their  
wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her  
harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982, by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).



cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -  
 Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -  
 ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!  
 rious: her star has is risen, O her light grows bright.  
 tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in  
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate  
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and  
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and  
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."  
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.  
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

## A PRAYER FOR STEWARDSHIP

*Said by all.*

Gracious and everlasting God, the giver of all good gifts, you have blessed us and our parish abundantly. Grant us the hope to dream and the courage to live into our possibilities. Make us faithful stewards, both for the provision of our necessities and for the relief of those who are in need. Bless the efforts of our annual giving this year to extend the work of spiritual renewal in our church and community of faith. Through Jesus Christ, who gave all of himself, we offer this prayer. Amen.

## 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.

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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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

Never weather-beaten sail

Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918)

*Sung by the choir.*

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,  
 never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,  
 than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:  
 O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest!

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise,  
 cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapor dims our eyes:  
 Glory there the sun outshines, whose beams the blessed only see:  
 O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!

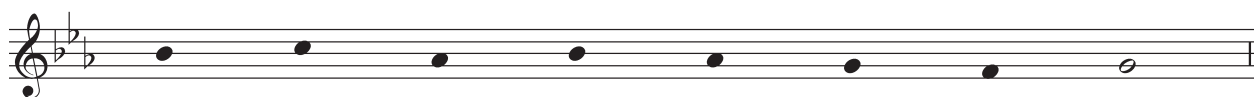
—Thomas Campion (1567–1620)

## HYMN 60 *Sung by all, seated.*

Creator of the stars of night



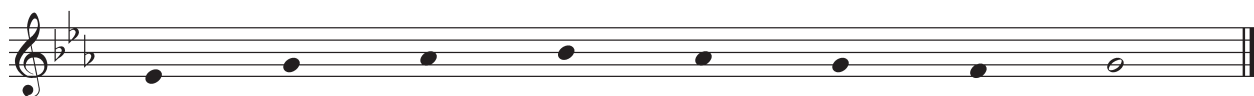
|   |      |      |       |       |      |       |        |        |       |        |
|---|------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| 1 | Cre  | -    | a     | -     | tor  | of    | the    | stars  | of    | night, |
| 2 | In   | sor  | -     | row   | that | the   | an     | -      | cient | curse  |
| 3 | When | this | old   | world | drew | on    | toward | night, |       |        |
| 4 | At   | your | great | Name, | O    | Je    | -      | sus,   | now   |        |
| 5 | Come | in   | your  | ho    | -    | ly    | might, | we     | pray, |        |
| 6 | To   | God  | the   | Fa    | -    | ther, | God    | the    | Son,  |        |



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
 2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
 3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
 4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
 5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
 6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free  
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child  
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
 5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.  
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.  
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
 5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
 6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956).

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

*Priest* Let us pray.

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

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

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

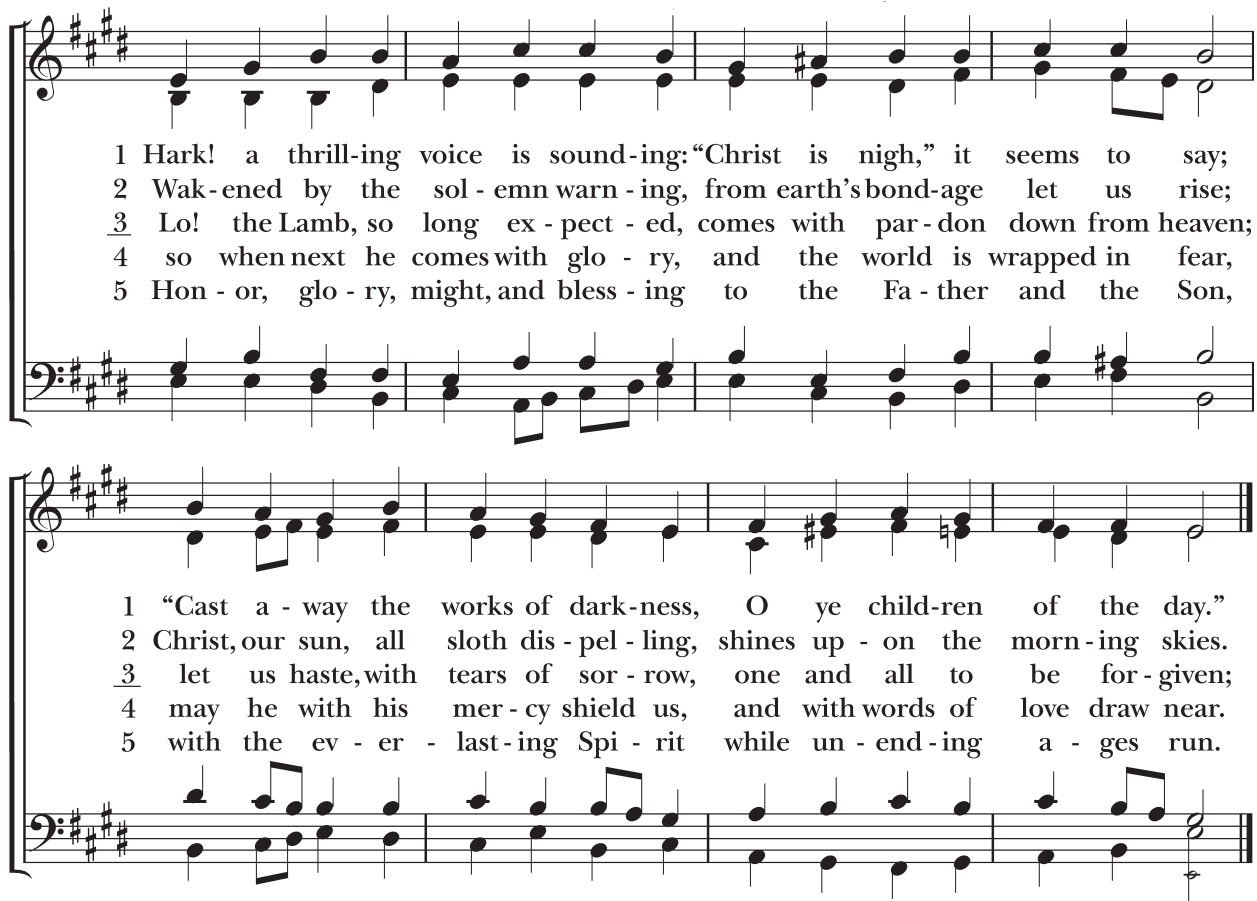
## THE BLESSING

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

## HYMN 59

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

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



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;  
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev - er - last-ing Spi - rit while un - end-ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

## THE DISMISSAL

*Priest* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## VOLUNTARY

Fantasia on *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

Emma Lou Diemer  
(1927–2024)

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**THE ADVENT FRONTAL ON THE ALTAR WAS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD,**  
and in loving memory of Avedis Thomas Reid Jr., Joseph Browning Reid II, and Richmond Shackleton Reid.

**THE GREENS IN THE CHURCH ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

**ASSISTING AT THE 9 A.M. SERVICE**

Mike DuMond, *Crucifer* | Robyne Johnston and Hilary West, *Chalice Bearers*  
Richard Young, *Assistant Head Usher* | Julia Koster and Hillary Stuart, *Ushers*  
Eleanor Odom and Susan Valascovik, *Greeters*  
Joanne Hutton and Julia Koster, *Flower Guild*

**ASSISTING AT THE 11 A.M. SERVICE**

Wendy J. Fibison, *Crucifer* | Ugo Owunwanne and Cooper Thesmar, *Acolytes*  
Debby Hailey and Joanne Hutton, *Chalice Bearers*  
Claire Kim, *Assistant Head Usher*  
Doug Estes, Jess Unger, and Bill Wright, *Ushers*  
Becca Brown Todd and Roderick Todd, *Greeters*  
Joanne Hutton and Julia Koster, *Flower Guild*  
Jeremy Sheeler, *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.**

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**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](http://stjohns-dc.org) for more about our offerings and how to get in touch.*

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Reading and Gospel: 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. ♦ Collect and Psalm: From the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. ♦ Music images reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701275.

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# Announcements for the Week of November 30

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## TODAY AT ST. JOHN'S

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*Today is the deadline for vestry nominations (see page 5).*

*Feeding DC Families Drive concludes (see next column).*

*Angel Tree Gift Drive continues (see next column).*

*Children's Chapel is offered during the sermon at 9 and 11 a.m.*

*Preaching this morning: The Rev. Rob Fisher*

- 8 a.m. Eucharist with Sermon  
Parish Choir (Parish House Fourth Floor)
- 8:30 a.m. Nursery—available until 12:30 p.m.  
(Parish House Second Floor)
- 9 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon
- 10 a.m. Coffee Hour (Plaza, weather permitting,  
or Parish House First Floor)  
Advent Wreath Making (Togo West Parlor;  
see next column)  
Adult Bible Study (Parish House Third Floor)  
St. John's Choir (Parish House Fourth Floor)
- 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon
- Noon Coffee Hour (Plaza, weather permitting,  
or Parish House First Floor)

## FLOWER DELIVERIES

Help us brighten the day of parishioners by taking them flowers, located in the side chapel most Sundays of the year. A card is attached to each vase with contact information.

Today flower deliveries are needed to:

- Connecticut Avenue, NW
- Emerson Avenue, McLean
- Sentinel Drive, Bethesda
- Q Street, NW

## COME MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH!

**Today at 10 a.m.**

Join in this fun annual tradition at St. John's that is 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. This activity takes the place of Church School and Youth Group.

## FEEDING DC FAMILIES

Communities in Schools, a St. John's outreach partner, is coordinating a crisis response to the delay of SNAP benefits to their families, many of whom were already experiencing acute food insecurity. You are invited to help, as you are able, by contributing Giant or Safeway gift cards, which can be left in the box provided in the narthex or handed to Ann Gardner or Livy More before or after Sunday services today. This is an opportunity to honor Thanksgiving by reaching out to others in greater need. Please contact Ann or Livy via the Ministry Directory at [stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory](http://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory) with any questions.

## 2025 ANGEL TREE GIFT DRIVE

It's that joyful time of year! St. John's is once again partnering with the Bishop Walker School, Advocates for Justice and Education, Communities in Schools of the Nation's Capital, and the DC Dream Center to bring Christmas cheer to children and families in need. Each recipient has provided a wish list of toys, books, or clothes that they are hoping to find underneath the Christmas tree this year.

## TWO WAYS TO PURCHASE GIFTS:

- **Shop Local:** Select an angel tag from the tree in the Parish House, shop for the listed gifts, and return them unwrapped by Monday, December 8.
- **Shop Online:** Purchase gifts from our Amazon Wish List at [bit.ly/sjc-angel-tree-2025](http://bit.ly/sjc-angel-tree-2025), and items will ship directly to the church.

*continues on next page*

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Visit [stjohns-dc.org/connect/newsletters](http://stjohns-dc.org/connect/newsletters) to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter (*The Word*) and other parish email lists.

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### THREE IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Gift Delivery Deadline:** Monday, December 8
- **Gift Wrapping:** Saturday, December 13 (see page 3)
- **Gift Distribution:** Begins Monday, December 15, so please return your purchases on time.

Thank you for helping share the love and joy of Christmas! Questions? Please contact Kevin Cordova-Brookey via the online Ministry Directory at [stjohns-dc.org](http://stjohns-dc.org).

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## SERVICE SCHEDULE | December 1–7

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**Monday**—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

**Tuesday**—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

**Wednesday**—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

**Thursday**—12:10 p.m.—Eucharist

**Friday**—12:10 p.m.—Noonday Prayer

**Sunday**—The Rev. Eric Bailey, preacher

8 a.m. Eucharist with Sermon

9 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon

11 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Sermon

*Children's Chapel offered during the sermon at 9 and 11 a.m.*

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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**Monday, December 1**

6:15 p.m. Lawyers' AA (Togo West Parlor)

**Tuesday, December 2**

1 p.m. Staff Meeting (Togo West Parlor)

6:30 p.m. Being With (Registered participants only)

**Wednesday, December 3**

4:30 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Latrobe Fellowship (see next column)

**Thursday, December 4**

4:30 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

7 p.m. Book Group (see next column)

Parish Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, December 6**

10:30 a.m. Refugee Committee Event (see next column)

### LATROBE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

**Wednesday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m.**

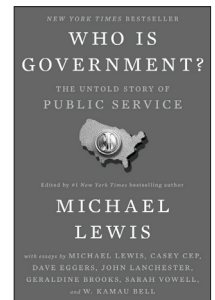
Celebrate the holiday season with the Latrobe Fellowship! Join us on Wednesday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. for a worship service followed by dinner and drinks (both alcoholic and non) in the Togo West Parlor. We will also have an optional white elephant gift exchange; if you wish to participate, bring a fun or silly wrapped gift (\$30 or less) of the sort that you, yourself, would enjoy receiving.

*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, December 4, at 7 p.m.**

Please join us via Zoom to discuss *Who Is Government? The Untold Story of Public Service* by Michael Lewis. This book highlights unexpected, inspiring, and riveting stories of the people, mostly uncelebrated and unrecognized, who are doing daily work that is beneficial for all Americans. 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](http://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory).



### REFUGEE COMMITTEE EVENT

**Saturday, December 6, at 10:30 a.m.**

Join us on Saturday, December 6, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Social Services refugee Resource Center (5710A General Washington Drive, Alexandria) to sort donations, stock shelves, pack orders for clients, and do light cleaning and inventory. The Resource Center is a hub for donations for refugee families and also hosts cultural orientation and group gatherings for recently resettled refugees. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome! Please contact Lacy Broemel via the Connect: Ministry tab at [stjohns-dc.org](http://stjohns-dc.org) if you plan to attend.

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## STEWARDSHIP

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### PLEASE MAKE A 2026 PLEDGE TO ST. JOHN'S

*As of Tuesday, November 25, we had received 197 pledges, totaling commitments of \$819,204 for 2026.*

Your 2026 pledge is a commitment of financial support to St. John's 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. You can make your pledge online on our website ([stjohns-dc.org/give/pledge](http://stjohns-dc.org/give/pledge)) or by returning 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!

### HERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO GIVE

As part of fulfilling an annual pledge or any other special gift, we welcome a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directing your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity such as St. John's.

Individuals aged 70½ or older may contribute up to \$108,000 per year from their IRA to charity. This amount may include all or part of your RMD if you are subject to one. Those with inherited IRAs who are over age 70½ may also direct up to \$108,000 annually to a qualified charity.

Always consult with your financial and tax advisors to confirm the best strategy for you, and remember that these distributions can be made **only** from IRA accounts, **not** from a 401(k), 403(b), Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), or other non-IRA retirement plans. Contact Lisa Kirchenbauer via the Give tab of our website with any questions.

### THE 1816 SOCIETY

Planned giving is another way to sustain the mission and ministry of St. John's. The 1816 Society honors those who remember St. John's through a planned gift, such as a bequest in their will, a life-income gift, or a gift of real estate or life insurance. Check out the Episcopal Church Foundation ([episcopalgifts.org](http://episcopalgifts.org)) to learn more about your options for planned giving, and contact Lisa Kirchenbauer via the Ministry Directory at [stjohns-dc.org](http://stjohns-dc.org) with questions or to join the 1816 Society.

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## COMING UP

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### ADVENT PARTY | Sunday, December 7, 5–7 p.m.

Join us for one of St. John's beloved holiday traditions. We'll gather for food, fellowship, and joyful music including the ever-popular carol sing-along. This year brings a few new surprises for all ages, including a special reading of *A Visit from St. Nicholas* by the rector, as well as a visit from St. Nicholas himself! Bring your friends, your family, and your holiday spirit as we celebrate the season together. For planning purposes, RSVP as you are able to [bit.ly/sjc-advent-party-rsvp](http://bit.ly/sjc-advent-party-rsvp). If you'd like to volunteer, contact Lisa Koehler through the About: Leadership tab on our website.

### LAFAYETTE FELLOWSHIP HOLIDAY PARTY Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.

Please join the Lafayette Fellowship as we celebrate the holiday season. We will gather in the Togo West Parlor on Tuesday, December 9, beginning at 6:30 p.m., for dinner, drinks, and Christmas-themed games. The Lafayette Fellowship is a group of adults looking for community. Our events offer the time and space to build friendships, expand our hearts and minds, and have fun. For planning purposes, RSVP to Hilary West via the online Ministry Directory.

### ANGEL TREE WRAPPING PARTY Saturday, December 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To wrap up our Angel Tree gift drive, we will have a special gift-wrapping event for all the donations. Regardless of your wrapping skills, you are invited to come spread the cheer. This will be a fun gathering with food and music to help us prepare to distribute gifts and make someone's Christmas a little extra special this year. RSVP as you are able to coordinator Kevin Cordova-Brookey via the Connect: Ministry Directory tab of our website.

### ST. JOHN'S PRIDE EVENTS

#### ANGEL TREE WRAPPING PARTY & BRUNCH

On Saturday, December 13, come celebrate the season of service by wrapping angel tree donations with us in Togo West Parlor. The quicker we wrap, the sooner we can gather nearby for brunch!

*continues on next page*



### **GAY MEN'S CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

A group from St. John's plans to attend the performance on **Sunday, December 14**, at 5 p.m. Information and tickets can be found at [www.gmcw.org/the-holiday-show](http://www.gmcw.org/the-holiday-show).

Questions? Contact leaders Brian Cordova-Brookey and John Schutz via the Ministry Directory, found under the Connect tab at [stjohns-dc.org](http://stjohns-dc.org).

### **INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITY: CHRISTMAS CARDS & GOODIE BAGS**

**Sunday, December 14, at 10 a.m.**

Help us spread comfort and joy this holiday season by decorating Christmas cards and assembling goodie bags for unhoused neighbors and guests of Grace's Table feeding ministry in Georgetown. Materials will be provided and parishioners of all ages are invited to participate. This activity will take the place of Church School. Questions? Contact the Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell via our website.

### **YOUTH HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Sunday, December 14, at 1:30 p.m.**

Youth are encouraged to enjoy Parish Lunch after the 11 a.m. service and join us shortly thereafter for a holiday party and Christmas film with popcorn and snacks. You are welcome to bring friends, whether or not they attend church. RSVP to [bit.ly/sjc-youth-advent-party](http://bit.ly/sjc-youth-advent-party), and contact the Rev. Eric Bailey via our website with any questions. This activity will take the place of the 10 a.m. formation hour.

### **GRACE'S TABLE**

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

**Upcoming dates: December 20 and January 17**

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.

*Can't make it but still want to help? Stop by Togo West Parlor on Sunday, December 14, at 10 a.m. for an intergenerational service activity to benefit guests of Grace's Table. Details above.*



### **HELP DELIVER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

**Sunday, December 21**

Please plan to deliver at least one Christmas poinsettia to fellow parishioners who cannot be present with us at worship at this time. The plants will be in the Parish House parlors on Sunday, December 21, with cards addressed to parishioners who live near you in Virginia, Maryland, or the District. Give the gift of your time, love, and cheer.



### **LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Sunday, December 21, 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. Free valet parking will be available starting at 4 p.m. The service will be followed by a reception in the Togo West Parlor. Invite your friends and family to join us for this special holiday offering. The service will also be livestreamed on our website. Please note: We are unable to offer nursery care for this service.

*For the full schedule of Christmas services, see the inside back cover. Know of someone you'd like to invite? Share the schedule with them so they can plan.*

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## SPEAKER SERIES

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The Speaker Series is held most Sundays from September through May at 10 a.m. in the Togo West Parlor on the first floor of the Parish House. An audio recording will be available on our website the week after each talk.



**December 7: The Rev. Richard A. Burnett**, General Secretary of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC), will share about the work of this institution.

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## NEWS & NOTICES

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### VESTRY NOMINATIONS

**Deadline: Sunday, November 30**

The Vestry Nominating Committee will meet in early December to select the slate for Vestry elections to be held at the Parish's Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 1, 2026. The role of the Vestry Nominating Committee is to select, from all those nominated, the six candidates who will stand for election, of whom three will be elected. Nominees should be pledging members of the congregation, attend worship regularly, and be active in the life of the parish. Submit names using the form found at [bit.ly/sjc-vestry-nomination](https://bit.ly/sjc-vestry-nomination). Questions? Speak to Tony Anikeeff, chair of the Nominating Committee. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, November 30.

### 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 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.*

### PARISH LUNCH SCHEDULE AND HOSTS

**Most Sundays after the 11 a.m. service**

Sunday lunch at St. John's is a longtime tradition in which every member and every visitor can participate. It's a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones—a time for fellowship and for hearing another's story.

The lunch is held most Sundays in the Parish House. Contributions of \$5 for adults and young people 13 and over and \$2 for children under 13 are requested to help defray the costs of the lunch. All are welcome. Valet parking hours are extended to 2 p.m. any Sunday with a parish lunch.

The Sunday lunch tradition relies on volunteers to prepare and serve the meal—which is why we encourage individuals, families, groups, or ministries to host at least once per program year. Hosts may be reimbursed for expenses or receive a tax receipt. Not sure what's involved? Want to claim a future date? Contact Parish Lunch coordinator Holly Sukenik at [stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory](https://stjohns-dc.org/connect/directory).

*November 30 No Lunch: Thanksgiving Weekend*

December 7 Stewardship Committee

December 14 Lafayette Fellowship

*December 21 No Lunch*

*December 28 No Lunch*

**January 4**

January 11 Latrobe Fellowship

**January 18**

January 25 St. John's Book Group

February 1 Annual Meeting and Reception

February 8 Refugee Committee

February 15 Will Yale, Craig & Barbara Burkhardt,  
Karen Zachary, and Miller Winecoff

February 22 Bishop Walker School

### FEDERAL WORKERS | Giving or receiving support

Many of our parishioners have been affected by recent layoffs in the federal government. We are seeking to care for one another. If you are seeking help—or if you have help to offer—please complete our survey at [bit.ly/sjc-federal-survey](https://bit.ly/sjc-federal-survey) with the details of what you need or can provide. You can also reach out to Jordan Baugh, our point person for this ministry, via the Ministry Directory on our website.

## NEW SECURITY MEASURES AT ST. JOHN'S

St. John's identity as a congregation is shaped by our urban location in the nation's capital. We seek to welcome all to our services and activities, treating everyone with dignity. We are also mindful of ensuring the safety and well-being of all who worship in our facilities.

In coordination with the Vestry and our Usher Guild, we have hired security personnel to attend our Sunday and holiday/special services. They will provide a low-key, proactive presence and respond quickly and respectfully to any arising situations in coordination with our ushers, staff, and, as needed, law enforcement/first responders.

We will provide additional training for our staff, who interact with the public every day, and our ushers, so they have shared approaches for all who come to our church.

Fortunately, we are able to take these steps prayerfully and proactively, and as we go forward we will continue to assess what best serves our church's needs.

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## FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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### 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 Akers-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. 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 Akers-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](http://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.

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## REMINDERS

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### FLOWER MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Flowers in the church and Parish House are made possible by gifts and are often dedicated to the memory of a loved one or to mark a birth or birthday, wedding, anniversary, graduation, or other special event. To make a dedication, pick up a flower card at the entrance to the church and return it either to the offering plate or to Sharlyne "Charley" Griffin in the Parish Office.

### ONLINE OFFERINGS TO DESIGNATED FUNDS

To make a monetary offering toward your pledge or a specific fund, scan the QR code at right, or visit our website, then select the desired destination using the "Fund" drop-down menu.





## 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. 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](http://stjohns-dc.org).

## JOIN A MINISTRY GROUP

Explore our many ministry groups at [www.stjohns-dc.org](http://www.stjohns-dc.org), and contact the leaders via our online Ministry Directory for details or to sign up.

## LIVESTREAMED SERVICES

The weekly 11 a.m. Sunday service is broadcast on our website and available for replay, as are evensongs and occasional other special services and events.

## 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.



## MAKE A PLEDGE TO ST. JOHN’S

A pledge is a commitment of financial support payable over the course of a year that enables us to plan the work that we undertake in mission and ministry. You can indicate a pledge commitment using this QR code or by visiting the Give tab on our website.



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## PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE

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Praying for those in need is an important part of our life together. Contact the Pastoral Care team via the Connect: Ministry Directory tab at [stjohns-dc.org](http://stjohns-dc.org) to add yourself, family, or friends to our prayer list. Names of friends and family who are not members of the congregation are followed by the name of the parishioner making the request.

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**Our prayers are requested for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially:**

## THOSE WHO ARE SICK, RECOVERING, OR GRIEVING

**From our parish:** Margo Arnold, Pat Czerwonky, Hyman Field, Chase Rynd, and Mary Wilson.

**Friends and family of our parish:** Alvin Atlas (Richard Metzger), Conor Barry (Sarah Wood), Billy Beardsley Conderman (Margo Arnold), Robert Bliss (Katherine Bliss and Mark Dennis), Gisela Block (Sigi Block), Jim DeBello (Grace Barrett), Walt Eccard (Margaret Depue), Ed Eder (Joanne and Powell Hutton), Sue Edmonds (Sarah and Jeff Agnew), Julie Ellis (Preston Cherouny), Laurie Feldon (Eleanor and Peter Odom), Blair Fiore (Debby Hailey), Bob and Heather Gilbert (Andrea Winchell), Chantay Griffin (Charley Griffin and Gee Gee Bryant), Linda Young Gsell (Rick Young), Morgan Hickenlooper (Livy More), Doug Holy (Joanne Hutton), Jack (Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier), Latithia and Charles Jones (GeeGee Bryant), Sean Josey (Bill and Sara Josey), Charlotte Crowley Junilla (Margo Arnold), Olivia Kehoe (Kat Kehoe), Gregory Lawler (Richard Metzger), Elizabeth Lee (Clayton Crawford), William hymn to them Markiewicz (Matthew Taylor), Jim Martella (Livy More), Tammy McCleaf (Matthew Taylor), Nell Montgomery (Brandon Montgomery), Ann Petrosky (Johnathan Miller), Scott (Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier), Connor Smith (Patrick and Cameron Smith), Pam Snyder (Sarah Agnew), Nancy Stephenson (Ann and John Gardner), Patsy Swain (Margo Arnold), Sallie and William Wilkie Thompson (Cecelia Thompson), Ashley Smith Thomson (Marta Cook and Cal Trepagnier), Mackenzie Toland (Wendy J. Fibison), Caleb Williams (Alfred Thesmar), Darrel Williams (Caleb and James Hays-Reilly), Edward Leland Williams II (Virginia Bader), Bess Williamson (Wendy Fibison), Andrew Woods (Johnathan Miller), Linda Woolley (Blount and Charlotte Stewart), and Judith York (Caroline Fisher).

## THOSE WHO ARE IN ASSISTED LIVING

**From our parish:** Eve Atkeson, Milton Chamberlain, Marcella Odom, and Becky Schergens.

**Friends and family of our parish:** David Brown (Lisa Koehler), Bob Chrystal, Sr. (Chris Jones), Veronica Jones (Chris Jones), Lori LaPoint (Brent Erstad), Yvonne Reiffer (Jack Reiffer), and Carl Wright (Frank and Nancy Klotz).

## THOSE WHO ARE IN HOSPICE CARE

**Friends and family of our parish:** Wilma Daubs (Kay Gilley).

*continues on the next page*



#### THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

**Friends and family of our parish:** Jim Hendricks, November 21 (Diane Hendricks Bitsberger).

#### THOSE IN OUR PARISH CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY

Andrew Clarke, Diana Duncan, Amanda Eversole, Eric Eversole, Liz Kosobucki, Paolo Mastrangelo, Michael McGregor, Michele Mullins, Javier Obregon, Sofia Tejera, and Pamela Venzke.

#### THOSE IN OUR PARISH CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY

Elizabeth and Gregory Mays.

#### THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES

**Friends and family of our parish:** Janie Abernethy (Elizabeth Lewis and David Abernethy), Philip L. Faris (Caroline and Steve Faris), and Charles Lewis, Jr. (Charles Lewis, Sr.).

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## LIST OF 2026 PLEDGERS

**On behalf of the rector, wardens, vestry, and all who share in the grace of God through the worship, ministries, programs, and outreach of St. John's Church, we thank the following for their pledges for the year 2026:**

*(As of November 25, 2025)*

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Anonymous (9)  
Kingsley Afemikhe  
Sarah & Amanda Akes-Cardwell  
Tony Anikeeff & Tung-lin Wu  
Douglas & Margo Arnold  
Gale Arnold  
Eric Bailey  
Jordan & Angelle Baugh  
Robert Beizer  
Murray J. Belman  
Kathleen Benner  
William & Martha Birdseye  
Diane Bitsberger  
Marion Blakey & Bill Dooley  
Paul Bledsoe & Celia Boddington  
Matthew Bode & Laurie Adams  
Jeff Bozman  
Sydney Brooks  
Craig & Barbara Burkhardt  
Meghan & Douglas Burt  
Rick Busch  
Carolyn Buser  
Susan Cardwell  
Mark Cardwell & Paul Ramos  
Andrea Charters  
Virginia Chew  
Carlye Christianson & Pascal Joly  
Andrew Clarke & Chip Sherrill  
Gwinneth Ann Clarkson  
Ann Compton Hughes  
Brian & Kevin Cordova-Brookey  
Margaret J. Craft  
Joseph Creech

Nicole & Stephen Crochet  
Garry & Patricia Dalby  
Betsy Danello  
William E. Davis  
Clayton & Margaret Depue  
John Derrick  
Anita & George Diliberto  
Deb Dornemann  
Joan & Jim Doty  
Mike & Beth DuMond  
Diana Duke Duncan  
James Eastwood  
Janet Edmond  
Kaye Edwards  
Rob & Anna Ehrich  
Martha Ellison  
Clark Ervin & Carolyn Harris  
Le & Casey Evans  
Allison Herron Eydt  
Caroline & Steve Faris  
Wendy J. Fibison  
Hyman Field  
Elizabeth Field  
Rob Fisher & Sarah Wood  
Art & Louise Fisher  
Alex Frye  
Deborah & Jay Fuller  
Ellie Fullerton  
Dr. Linda Gaines  
Elizabeth Gallalee  
David Gallalee  
John & Ann Gardner  
Chris & Elizabeth Gardner

Carrie & Jim Garland  
Kay Gilley  
Donald & Ronnie Goodheart  
Ginny Griggs  
Richard & Jeanne Grimmett  
Stephanie & Greg Guyett  
Sandra Hackworth  
Deborah Hailey  
Peter Hailey  
Budd & Susan Jess Hallberg  
Peter & Summer Hardinge  
Robert & Anne Harrington  
Fruzsina Harsanyi  
Diane Hauslein  
Caleb Hays & James Reilly  
Tim & Susan Heil  
Robert & Tammi Hoback  
Pamela Howard  
Powell & Joanne Hutton  
Marlene Ikeda  
John Peters Ireland  
Cindy Jiang  
Bruce & Georgia Johnson  
Ethan Johnson  
Wande Johnson  
Austin Johnson  
Katie Johnson & Nate Rawlings  
Robyne Johnston  
Felton Johnston  
Bill & Sara Josey  
Bill & Ann Kaye  
Carter & Fran Keithley  
William T. Kendall

Kim Kennedy & Beverly Roberts  
Anne & Loren Kieve  
Lisa & James Kirchenbauer  
Anya Kleyменова  
Frank & Nancy Klotz  
Elizabeth Koehler  
Liz & Jon Kosobucki  
Julia Koster  
Kevin Kozlowski & Lara Kanitra  
Kenny Kraft  
Grant Kraus  
Patricia Leslie  
Grace Limoncelli & Philip Kuhn  
James Longley  
John & Emily Lucio  
Jan Lupton  
Chip & RJ Lyerly  
Middleton Martin  
Sherill Mason  
Abbott McCartney & Sigi Block  
Clayton McCleskey  
Saunders & Joan McElroy  
Judson McIntire  
Andy McKinnon  
Richard Metzger  
Nathan & Kelly Miller  
Johnathan S. Miller  
Livy More  
Gregory & Elizabeth Morrison  
Rob Mosbacher, Jr.

Michele & Jim Mullins  
Jack Musso  
Chris Northrup  
Peter & Eleanor Odom  
Lydia & Ralph Olson  
Ucheora & Nkem Onwuamaegbu  
Owen & Felicia Owunwanne  
Matthew L. Paeffgen  
Robert D. Pahnke  
Sharon Park  
Cami Pease & Matt Martone  
Raymond & Susan Petniunas  
Larry Pettinger  
Natalie Popovic  
Richard Price & Yung Chang  
William Priest  
Philip Priest  
Kelly & Tricia Pulsifer  
Will Rabbe & Brittany Prime  
Carl & Mary Raether  
Allie Raether Ganjian & Ali Ganjian  
Luis J. Ramos-Chacon  
Hwa Cha Redman  
Jack Reiffer  
Harker & Geraldine Rhodes  
Hap & Nora Rigby  
Steve & Susan Roehrich  
Chase Rynd  
Jessica & Alex Sanchez  
KayAnn & Brian Schoeneman

Susan & Sandy Sierck  
Will & Annie Simonds  
Jeremy Skog  
Alex Smith  
Peter Spaulding  
John Staples & Scott Raspa  
Ken & Susan Starling  
Anne D. Stewart  
Toby Stock & Margy Slattery  
Alex Stolar  
Hillary & Tim Stuart  
Holly & John Sukenik  
Matthew Taylor  
Riley Temple  
Alfred & Hilary Thesmar  
Marianne Thomas  
Cal Trepagnier & Marta Cook  
Susan Valaskovic  
Ryan Wagner  
Christopher Wall  
Alis Wang & Amy Stulman  
Susan Welch  
Gail Berry West  
Trey & Amy Whitworth  
Emma Wilson  
Anita Woehler  
William Yale  
Zhijun Yang  
Karen Zachary  
JoAnn Zuercher & Glenn Reichardt



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS

The poinsettias and evergreens that enhance the beauty of the church and parish house at Christmastide are given by parishioners as memorials for those who have died and as thanksgiving for those who are living. Please consider remembering those who are important to you. The suggested donation is \$50 per name. Your support of this important ministry is greatly appreciated. **The deadline for inclusion in the Christmas order of service is Wednesday, December 17.**

To pay by check, please enclose your completed form with a check payable to St. John's Church, and return it to Sharlyne "Charley" Griffin in the Parish Office with "Christmas Flowers" noted on the outside of the envelope—or simply place this form with your check in the offering plate on Sunday.

You may also make your payment online at [bit.ly/SJCLGive](https://bit.ly/SJCLGive). Choose "Special Flowers" from the dropdown menu. Under memo, list the name(s) and indicate whether your gift is in memory of or in thanksgiving for.

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** St. John's Church ♦ 1525 H Street, NW ♦ Washington, DC 20005 ♦ Attention: Charley Griffin  
Please contact the Parish Office at 202-347-8766 if you have questions.



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## CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S

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

***[www.stjohns-dc.org](http://www.stjohns-dc.org)***

### LESSONS & CAROLS

**Sunday, December 21, 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 be livestreamed. Valet parking available.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

*Arrive 30 minutes early (at all three 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  
Sermon—The Rev. Rob Fisher

### THURSDAY, 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. Children ages three and up are invited to participate in the pageant as an Angel, Shepherd, or Friendly Beast. Come 30 minutes early to enjoy a prelude of anthems and carols before the start of the service. All children who wish to participate should attend rehearsal on Sunday, December 21. Please contact the Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab of our website for more information.

### CHRISTMAS EVE FESTAL EUCHARIST

**December 24 at 7 and 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 and Choristers 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](http://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.

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## **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*

Nora Haugh, *Treasurer*

Anya Kleymenova, *Assistant 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 Akers-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*

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## **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](http://www.stjohns-dc.org)