

SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

CHORAL EVENSONG

The Eve of Thanksgiving, November 26, 2025

*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—Maxine Thévenot (b. 1969)
Canticles—Collegium Regale by Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

VOLUNTARY

Antiphon

Calvin Hampton (1938–1984)

INTROIT

Pilgrims' Hymn

Stephen Paulus (1949–2014)

Even before we call on your name
to ask you, O God,
when we seek for the words to glorify you,
you hear our prayer;
unceasing love, O unceasing love,
surpassing all we know.
Glory to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

Even with darkness sealing us in,
we breathe your name,
and through all the days that follow so fast,
we trust in you;
endless your grace, O endless your grace,
beyond all mortal dream.
Both now and forever,
and unto ages and ages. Amen.

—Michael Dennis Browne (b. 1940)

HYMN 290

Come, ye thankful people, come

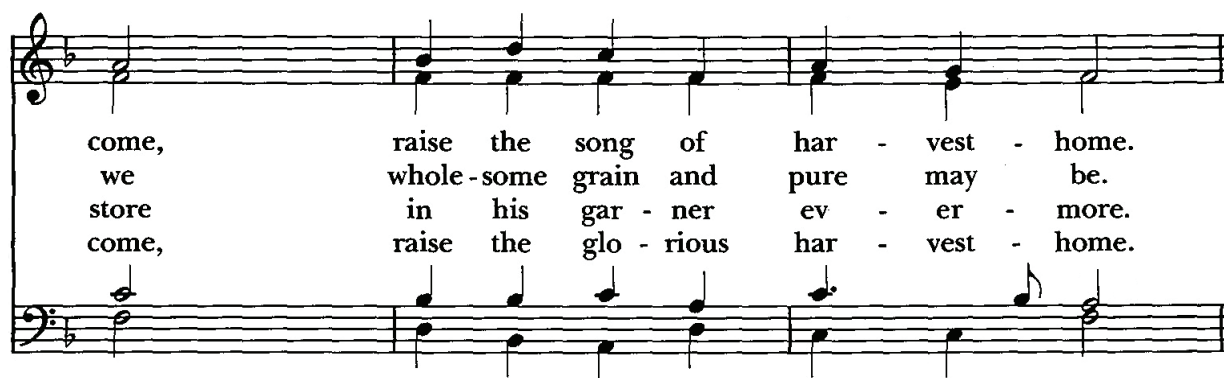
Please stand as the procession enters and remain standing to sing the hymn.

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest-home:
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his har-vest home;
 4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi-nal har-vest-home;

all is safe-ly gath-ered in, ere the win-ter storms be-gin;
 wheat and tares to- geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-row grown;
 from his field shall in that day all of-fens-es purge a-way;
 gath-er thou thy peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin;

God, our Ma-ker, doth pro-vide for our wants to
 first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn
 give his an-gels charge at last in the fire the
 there, for ev-er pur-i-fied, in thy pres-ence

be sup-plied; come to God's own tem-ple,
 shall ap-pear: grant, O har-vest Lord, that
 tares to cast, but the fruit-ful ears to
 to a-bide; come, with all thine an-gels



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.

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun.

You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

—*Psalm 74:15, 16*

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

—*John 8:12*

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.

JUBILATE DEO

in B-flat

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

Please be seated. 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 FIRST READING

Read by Sandra Hackworth.

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 Debby Hailey.

John 6:25-35

When the crowd found Jesus on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

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 all on a monotone.

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.

REMARKS

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.
A donation via this code can go only to offerings and not to pledges or any other specific funds.*



THE ANTHEM

This is my Father's world

Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977)

Sung by the choir.

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world: The birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world: O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: Let the heavens ring! God reigns; let earth be glad!

—*Maltbie D. Babcock (1858–1901)*

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

Now thank we all our God

Sung by all, standing as you are able.

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voic - es,
 2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us!
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won-drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
 With ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est hea - ven,

who from our mo - ther's arms hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 e - ter - nal, Tri - une God, whom earth and heaven a - dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ev - er - more.

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

Nun danket alle Gott, Op. 67, No. 28

Max Reger (1873–1916)

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

ADVENT AT ST. JOHN'S

COME MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH!

Sunday, November 30, 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. You're encouraged to bring your own clippers if you have them. Contact Sarah Akes-Cardwell via the About: Leadership tab of our website with questions. This activity will take the place of Church School and Youth Group.

ADVENT PARTY

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

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, including a 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, as you are able, RSVP to bit.ly/sjc-advent-party-rsvp. To volunteer, contact Lisa Koehler through the About: Leadership tab on our website.

ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

John Chappell Stowe, *Interim Assistant Organist*

St. John's Choir and Choristers

Jack Reiffer, *Crucifer* | Richard Young, *Assistant Head Usher*

Tony Anikeeff, Julia Koster, and John Schutz, *Ushers*

Joanne Hutton and Julia Koster, *Flower Guild*

Ryan Wagner, *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](https://www.instagram.com/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 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 Akes-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) has up-to-date information about the church including the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, and newsworthy events.

Vestry Leadership & Members

Nora Rigby, *Senior Warden*

Alfred Thesmar, *Junior Warden*

Tony Anikeeff, Brian Cordova-Brookey,
Kaye Edwards, Casey Evans, Debby Hailey,
Fruzsina Harsanyi, Julia Koster,
Ucheora Onwuamaegbu, Jack Reiffer,
Matthew Taylor, and Jess Unger, *Members*

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*

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