



**St. John's Episcopal Church  
Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2025  
6:00 PM**

## The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

Welcome to St. John's. The service from the Book of Common Prayer is printed in this bulletin. Hymns are found in the blue Hymnal 1982. Hymnal "S" numbers are at the front of the hymnal.

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### The Word of God

#### Choral Prelude

Gloria (1<sup>st</sup> movement)

Antonio Vivaldi

**Processional Hymnal 83** O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Adeste fideles*

*Priest* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity.*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The following song of praise is sung, all standing*

**Hymnal 96** Angels We Have Heard on High

*Gloria*

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

4. See him in a manger laid  
whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while we raise our hearts in love.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### The First Lesson: Isaiah 9.2-7

**Bible 627**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forever more.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

**The Gradual** Psalm 96:1-9 *Cantate Domino*  
*The choir and congregation chant the psalm.*

**BCP 725**



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|---|---|
| <p>1 Sing to the LORD a new <u>song</u>; *<br/>           sing to the LORD, all the whole <u>earth</u>.<br/>       2 Sing to the LORD and bless his <u>Name</u>; *<br/>           proclaim the good news of his salvation<br/>           from day to <u>day</u>.<br/>       3 Declare his glory among the <u>nations</u> *<br/>           and his wonders among all <u>peoples</u>.<br/>       4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be <u>praised</u>; *<br/>           he is more to be feared than all <u>gods</u>.</p> | <p>5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but <u>idols</u>; *<br/>           but it is the LORD who made the <u>heavens</u>.<br/>       6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his <u>presence</u>! *<br/>           Oh, the power and the splendor of his <u>sanctuary</u>!<br/>       7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the <u>peoples</u>; *<br/>           ascribe to the LORD honor and <u>power</u>.<br/>       8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his <u>Name</u>; *<br/>           bring offerings and come into his <u>courts</u>.<br/>       +9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of <u>holiness</u>; *<br/>           let the whole earth tremble <u>before him</u>.</p> |
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**The Second Lesson:** Titus 2.11-14

**Bible 1357**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

**Sequence Hymnal 87** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Mendelssohn*

**The Gospel:** Luke 2.1-20

**Bible 1203**

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
 People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Sermon**

### **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**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. *The people kneel.*

*Leader* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

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

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

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

*Leader* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

*Leader* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

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

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

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

*Leader* Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

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

*Leader* Give to the departed eternal rest;

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

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

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

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

*Silence is kept, after which the people may add their own petitions. The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

*The celebrant then says to the people*

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

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

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion

### Offertory Anthem

The Holly and The Ivy

Reginald Jacques

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

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

*The holly bears a blossom, as white as the lily flower, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our sweet Saviour. (Refrain)*

*The holly beares a prickly, as sharp as any thorn, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, on Christmas day in the morn. (Refrain)*

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

*The people stand while the offerings are presented, all singing*

**Presentation Hymnal 93** Angels, From the Realms of Glory v. I

Regent Square

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er

All the earth; ye, who sang creation's story,

Now proclaim Messiah's birth, come and worship,

Come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The first staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff is for the People, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is right to give him thanks and praise." The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

**Hymnal S-125** Holy, holy, holy Lord Sanctus

Proulx

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*The people stand or kneel.*

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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed 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.

*Conclusion of Eucharistic Prayer and Amen*

Hymnal S-142



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

**Hymnal 324, v. I** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence *Fraction Anthem*

Picardy

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

*All baptized persons are invited to come forward for Communion, receiving the bread in their hands, consuming the bread, and then guiding the cup to their lips for a sip of wine. You may also intinct (dip) the wafer into the wine or omit the wine entirely. Unbaptized persons and young children may come for a blessing, presenting themselves to the ministers with hands crossed over their chests.*

*During the ministration of Communion, the following carols are sung:*

O Holy Night *Amanda Hines Wrona, Soprano*

*Adolphe Adam*

Hymnal 112 In the Bleak Midwinter

*Cranham*

Hymnal 79 O Little Town of Bethlehem

*St. Louis*

Hymnal 89 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

*Carol*

Hymnal 115 What Child is This

*Greensleeves*

*(The people kneel)*

Hymnal 111 Silent Night

*Stille Nacht*

*Celebrant and People*

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

## **The Blessing**

*During the closing hymn, there will be a short instrumental interlude between each sung verse; watch the Director of Music for a cue to resume singing after each interlude.*

**Recessional Hymnal 100** Joy to the World!

*Antioch*

## **Dismissal**

## **Voluntary**

Toccata on “In Dulci Jubilo”

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

On the Cover: Illumination from the 15th century Besançon Book of Hours showing the Nativity with the Blessed Virgin Mary reading while Joseph cradles Jesus. Fitzwilliam MS 69 folio 48r

## **Accessibility**

St. John's is equipped with a T-loop hearing system that connects directly to hearing aids and implants via the "T" or "T Coil" setting.

We have a number of In-Loop listening devices that deliver amplified sound through headphones.

We are also equipped with ADA accessibility via the side door by the Memorial Garden.

*Please ask one of the greeters or an usher for assistance.*



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## **Servers and Musicians**

EM: Angela Daniel, Jason Lockhart

Acolytes: Timothy Koutrakos, Will and Spence Jaillette, Jack Long, Francis Grice, Dylan Bell, Andrew Beasley, Eva Jaillette, Ezra Grice, Claire McCants

Ushers: Thomas & McMahon Faulds, Jim Daniels

Streaming: Berkley McCants

Altar Guild Members and Guild of the Flowering Cross

The Tilted Halos, Saint John's Singers, and Choral Scholars

English Morris, Organ

Dick Goodwin and Charlie Polk, Trumpets; Ashley Fleshman and Catherine Allgrim, Trombones



## **The Christmas Flowers & Special Music are given to the Glory of God and...**

### **In loving memory of...**

Bill Moser, by Carole Moser  
Helen P. Ballew (GaGa), by Scott, Reeve, Elizabeth and Sarah Ballew  
Nancy and Julian Hinson, by Ann Hinson  
Robin Hinson Driggers, by Ann Hinson  
Ruth and Cobb Bell; Ida Lillian and Thornton Smith, by Martha & Sid Smith  
Burt Fowles and Mary Tortorici, by Laura & Will Fowles  
Our parents, Mr. & Mrs. J. Z. Brooker, and Mr. & Mrs. John F. Arrowsmith, by Rhoda & Jeff Brooker  
Barbara Dill Barber, by Elizabeth & Toby Ward  
Cogburn & Leslie Gaillard, by Carrol Gaillard  
Nancy Wooten, by Pat Wooten  
Lillian LaFollette, Mary & Ernie Ellis, and Peggy Dulaney, by Sandie & Ernie Ellis  
Mike Strong, by Elaine Strong  
Robert & Mary Kathleen Whitehurst, by Susan Smith  
Buddy & Ramona Mitchell, and Alice M. Fuller, by Gail Fisher  
Our parents, by Rhett & Beaver Hardy  
My husband, Burt Fowles, by Carol Fowles  
Duncan Warren and Beth Warren, by Ginny, Griffin, and Ellis Warren  
My godmother, Skipper Mikell Usher, by Robin Campbell  
Caroline Dill Barber, by her parents, Susan & Jim Barber  
James R. Barber, Jr. and Barbara Dill Barber, by Susan & Jim Barber  
Tom & Irene Cartwright and Richard Valentine Sr., by Craig & Flora Valentine  
Mike Cavanaugh, and parents of Jeanne & Mike, by Jeanne Cavanaugh  
Press, Bryant, Beth, Adair, and Allen, by Georgianna & Jim Wheeler

### **In thanksgiving for...**

William and Brianna Moser, by Carole Moser  
Nicholas, Garrett and Alex, by Carole Moser  
Elizabeth and Troy, by Carole Moser  
Our daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah, by Scott & Reeve Ballew  
Clergy and staff of St. John's, by Martha & Sid Smith  
Hollie, Roddey and Sidney Smith; Megan, Lawson and Olivia Smith, by Martha & Sid Smith

Our children and grandchildren, by Laura & Will Fowles  
Hugh Barker, Sophie Burkett, James Long, James Meacham, Harper Meacham, and Caroline Overdyke, by Brandon & Katherine Templeton  
Henry and Emily, by Billy & Amanda Koehler  
Davis Bourne's monthly Sunday School Class, by Jane Blair  
Our children and grandchildren, by Rhoda & Jeff Brooker  
Ernie, by Joseph, Scott and Sandie  
PopPop Ellis, by Taylor Ellis  
Meg & Peter, by Cogburn Gaillard  
Our boys, Francis and Ezra, by Will & Jessamine Grice  
Patrick Wooten and Julia Principe, by Pat Wooten  
Sandie, my wife, our family and our many blessings, by Ernie Ellis  
Our sons, Joseph and Scott, his wife Brooke and our grandson Taylor, by Sandie & Ernie Ellis  
Rebecca, Mary Mac, and Frances Coleman, by Thomas Coleman  
My family and Bill, by Gail Fisher  
Our family, by Rhett & Beaver Hardy  
My children, Burton, Christy, and Will, by Carole Fowles  
My Family, by Faxie Watt  
Our children Porter and Sophie, our St. John's community, and the upcoming wedding of Porter and Allison, by Michael & Kelly Burkett  
My parents, Ernie & Sandie Ellis; your undeviating love for our family is a constant source of inspiration; thank you for all that you do, by Joseph Ellis  
Davis Randall Dozier and Wesley Wolfe Horst, by Cathy & Davis Bourne  
Our rectors, by Gail Jeter  
Our children and grandchildren, by Craig & Flora Valentine  
Our children Lena, Netta & Dana; Barbara & Hank Wesman; The Plyler family, "Rocko" and "Hi," by the Apoldites  
My children and grandchildren, Kathryn, Lowell, Sammi, Evan, Sydney, Taylor, Zach, Asa and Sanders, by Jeanne Cavanaugh  
Cassels and Marianna, by Georgianna & Jim Wheeler