

THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025 | 10:15 am



In the name of Jesus Christ, welcome! We are delighted to worship with you this morning.

*This booklet and The Hymnal 1982 (dark blue) provide the resources needed
for participation in the service. Congregational responses appear in **bold**.*

*Whether a long-standing parishioner, a new member, or someone joining us for the first time,
we hope you will sense God's work within you and in this community.
May our worship strengthen, inspire, and guide us this day and always.*

THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

INTROIT *Matin Responsory*

adapted from a Magnificat by Palestrina

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.
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?

Please stand and sing

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION 61 “‘Sleepers, wake!’ A voice astounds us”

Wachet auf

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

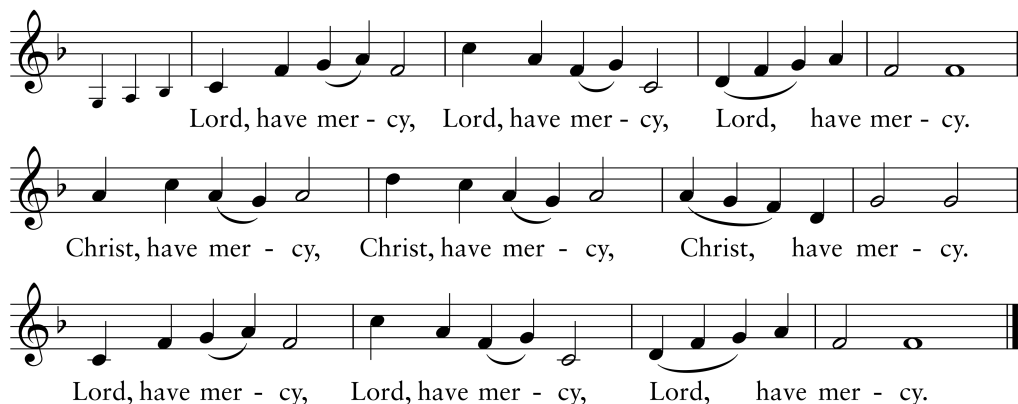
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

KYRIE

Robert Powell (1932-2025)



Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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 plowshares, 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 *Read responsively by half verse*

Lætatus sum

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
 “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
 that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,
 the tribes of the LORD, *
 the assembly of Israel,
 to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
 the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
 “May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
 and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions’ sake, *
 I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
 I will seek to do you good.”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:11-14

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand and sing

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE “Soon and very soon” (*LEVAS II – 14*)

Soon and Very Soon

(see next page)

*Children who wish can follow the leaders to Children’s Chapel.
They will return at the Peace, following the Prayers of the People.*

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
 2 No more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,

soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
 no more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,

soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,
 no more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 soon and ver - y soon we are goin' to see the King,

Hal-le - lu - jah, Hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

Reader 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.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated

THE SERMON

The Reverend Joshua D. Armstrong-Walters, *Rector*

Please stand

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.

Please remain standing or kneel

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and all who await the return of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God among us, saying:
People Come, O come, Emmanuel.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is observed.

People 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.

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please be seated

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you new to the St. John's community?

Fill out the newcomer card in the pew or scan the QR code

to help us get to know you and help you discover more about life at St. John's.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY *O Thou, the Central Orb*

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

O thou, the central orb of righteous love,
pure beam of the most high, eternal light of this our wintry world,
thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.
Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, as stars about thy throne,
set in the height of God's ordaining counsel,
as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee,
transforming clay to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

-H.R. Bramley (1833-1917)

*You can make an offering from your smartphone by scanning the QR code.
Use the drop-down menu to select "Donations" for a one-time offering,
or "2025 Pledges" for a pledge contribution.*



Please stand and sing

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

In the season of Advent, we offer our gifts in thanksgiving to God not with grand hymns of praise, but with expressions of longing for the promise of the Incarnate Word.

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in low - ly ex - ile
here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer D

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Powell

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 remain standing or kneel

Celebrant We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

People Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.
We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Celebrant Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with Mary the God-bearer and mother of our Lord, with Joseph his earthly father, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People **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.**

AGNUS DEI

Powell

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

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.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The bread and the wine of Holy Communion are God's gifts for God's people.

Please follow the directions of the ushers to receive communion at the altar rail.

If you require assistance or wish to receive communion at your seat, please inform the ushers.

It is customary to receive communion while kneeling at the altar rail, but remaining standing is also appropriate. Gluten-free wafers are available. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, please come forward and cross your arms across your chest.

ANTHEM AT THE COMMUNION *Quia respexit*, from *Magnificat*, BWV 243

Bach

Ashi Day, soprano

*Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae,
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.*

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed.

HYMN AT THE COMMUNION 53 “Once he came in blessing”

Gottes Sohn ist kommen

Please stand

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 AND DISMISSAL

The Celebrant blesses the people.

People Amen.

The Celebrant dismisses the people.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING 57 “Lo! he comes, with clouds descending”

Helmsley

VOLUNTARY

*In celebration of St. Andrew's Day,
please enjoy the music of Robert Mitchell, bagpiper,
on the Front Circle and in Shears Hall.*

AFTER THE SERVICE, PLEASE JOIN US
FOR FELLOWSHIP IN SHEARS HALL.

Thank you for lifting your voice and joining our *Chorus of Generosity*. As of this week, 121 pledges have been received for a total of almost \$840,000. **Please help us meet and exceed our 2026 stewardship campaign goal of \$1,150,000.** You can pledge online at bit.ly/sjpledge, or use your smartphone to scan the QR code and follow the prompts. Every pledge of any amount counts!



SERVING THIS MORNING

Acolytes	8:00 am	Bobbi Bowman
	10:15 am	JD Bulford and Katelyn Tompkins
Lay Readers	8:00 am	Shelli Bushman, Greer Bushman, and Will Bushman
	10:15 am	Sue Perry, JD Bulford, and John Barkmeyer
Chalice Bearers	8:00 am	Margaret Kerfoot and Shelli Bushman
	10:15 am	Kannon Shanmugam and John Barkmeyer
Ushers	8:00 am	Stephanie Simmons and Mark Van Kirk
	10:15 am	Duane Dobson, Greg Dole, John Hunter, and Roland Saunders
Altar Guild	8:00 am	Pat Blood
	10:15 am	Dawn Jones and Kristin Saunders
Flower Guild		Sue Perry

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PRAYER LIST

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Australia.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for in thanksgiving for God's Creation and all those who care for it.

We give thanks for those who celebrate birthdays this week: Coleman Bishop, Betsey Hull, Sharon Molster, Scott Price, Sam Isler, Dee Smoot, Mike Voslow, Olivia du Pont, Matthew Toloczko, Vir Playforth, Brandon Purdy, Duane Dobson, Parker Kaplan, and Steve Shane; and for those who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week: Sandy & Bob Smoot, Domenica & Ramon Lopez, Jen & Gerry Trainor, and Pat & Brian Blood.

PARISHIONERS

Sally Johnson
Bruce
Dee Smoot

Barbara Coffin
Bill and Sandy Silzer
Judith Mueller

Susan Arthur
Mary Lee Coffey
Jay Andre

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Rob Barnes and Family
John Sheehan
Robin
David
Susan
Karolyn Morigi Armstrong
Jess and David Hunt
Reilly Clautice
Phyllis Vaughan
Cecil Clark
Carl Lang
Jacob, Jordan and Katie Craft
Kevin Keane
Liz
David
Lisa Sierant

Jim Dole
Melissa Glorieux
Sophia Ann Boursiguot
Norene Yowell
Susan Snell
Lee Johnson
Jack Gleason
Edwina Johnson
Shirley James
Bennett Barletta
Bruce Clarke
Harris
Jim Griffith
Marion Johnson
Judy Watson
Bruce and Sue Gross

Chet Levine
Isabella Coffin
Carson Porter
Arlo William
Jim
Marilyn-Anne
Maxine Harvey
Sue Clarke
Heather Tweed
Mac
Mike Koch
Allie Acosta

We pray for the departed and for all who mourn.

To add someone to the Prayer List,
email churchmail@stjohnsmclean.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT MATERIALS FOR FAMILIES

This year we are offering a beautiful Advent Calendar from StoryMakers as our offering for families to use at home. It is an interactive daily calendar for families with children of all ages, though it will be particularly exciting for our elementary-age children. We have several copies available. We are asking for a suggested donation of \$10 to offset the cost of the calendars. You can reserve a calendar for your family at bit.ly/sjAdventCal25.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Today at 9:15 am and after the 10:15 am Service

Join us to make Advent wreaths in preparation for the season. Materials for the wreaths as well as instructions for how to use them will be provided. Suggested donation \$20 per wreath. NOTE: This will take the place of Sunday School today. ***NEW THIS YEAR! We are offering handcrafted ceramic Advent wreath forms alongside our traditional foam-based options.*** These ceramic forms provide an excellent way to keep your greenery watered and are designed for repeated use each Advent, as well as for general floral arrangements. Each ceramic form is uniquely made by a skilled potter in Marietta, GA—the father of our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, Sally Benton. Quantities are limited. Order your ceramic form for \$50 at bit.ly/sj-cwform.

CARING CLOSE KNIT CRAFTERS (CCKC)

Thursday, December 11 at 10:30 am AND 7:00 pm in Smoot Conference Room

CCKC is expanding hours to enable working folks to enjoy the fun and fellowship while working on projects like knitting, crocheting, needlepointing, painting, and mending. In addition to our regular group meeting at 10:30 am on the second Thursday of each month we've introduced a second opportunity at 7:00 pm. We hope you will mark your calendar and join us. Bring a friend! Questions? Contact the Parish Office or Martha High at marthahigh@icloud.com.

RECTOR'S ST. NICHOLAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 11 at Noon in Shears Hall

In the spirit of the season and St. Nicholas Day the Rector and staff invite parishioners to come for a festive holiday luncheon. Retirees and those young-at-heart are especially welcome, as we give thanks for the wisdom and many years of loving devotion to this parish. ***Let us know by November 30 if you can join us.*** Please RSVP to Pamela Fox at pamelafox06@gmail.com if you plan to attend the Luncheon. If you have any food allergies, please be sure to include that in your RSVP. ***Additionally, we'll be collecting a thank offering for SHARE.***

ADVENT-URE DAY

Saturday, December 13 from 10:00 am to Noon

Join us for a day of holiday fun or drop your kids off and get some Christmas shopping done! Children will enjoy a snack, a movie, and the chance to create simple crafts that would be great for gifting this holiday season. They will also have an opportunity to be fitted for their Christmas Pageant costume. Cost is \$5 per child, \$15 max per family. If your kids (4–11 years old) want to participate, or you or your youth want to volunteer, please sign up at bit.ly/sjAdventPageant25.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Saturday, December 13

We will end Advent-ure Day with a run through of the pageant and select costumes. All children are encouraged to participate. Please reach out to Sally Benton at sbenton@stjohnsmclean.org with questions. We will need youth and adult volunteers to make this event possible. Please sign up to volunteer at bit.ly/sjAdventPageant25.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 14 at the 10:15 am service – Followed by Carols & Cocoa

Calling all sheep, shepherds, and angels! We need your help in telling the Christmas story. There's a spot for everyone; from speaking and non-speaking roles, to narrators, costume gurus, backstage sheep wranglers and everything in between! Contact Sally Benton at sbenton@stjohnsmclean.org.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Please help make the annual Carols & Cocoa celebration after our December 14 Christmas Pageant the most festive ever. We need your delicious Christmas cookies to feed the angels, shepherds, and Wise Men, as well as their proud families. We also need help with making cocoa, setting up, and cleaning up. Please visit bit.ly/sjCarolsCocoa25 to sign up for the available slots. Thank you! Questions? Contact Katherine Haskell at haskellkz@gmail.com.

SECOND SUNDAY CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 pm

Join us for an Advent-themed service of Choral Evensong led by the St. John's Choir, and featuring music of Marty Wheeler Burnett, Thomas Attwood Walmisley, and Stephen Cleobury. Choral Evensong, a contemplative liturgy, is one of the treasures of the Anglican tradition. At this service, the congregation participates mostly by allowing the clergy and choir to speak and sing on its behalf. Many find this frees them, in a busy world, to offer to God their own thoughts and prayers. A reception with light refreshments follows in Shears Hall. *Sponsored by the Music Fund.*

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 14 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm

All youth (grades 5–12) and recent graduates are invited to join us for a festive Christmas celebration with dinner, cookie decorating, and a white elephant gift exchange. Wear your most festive holiday attire for a time of carols, creativity, and fun. Youth are encouraged to bring a wrapped gift valued around \$10 for our gift exchange.

Are you receiving the *Parish News* weekly email newsletter and other updates? Stay up to date on all that's happening at St. John's Church. Subscribe at eepurl.com/hTTjw1.

DAY TRIPPERS EXCURSION TO THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE: A WHITE HOUSE EXPERIENCE

Wednesday, December 17

In celebration of the Christmas holiday, the Day Trippers will visit the decorated **The People's House**, in DC. The Experience includes displays of White House history. Enjoy 60–90 minutes of these innovative and interactive exhibits. Take a seat behind the Resolute Desk in a replica Oval Office. To reserve your place, send \$15 to Tim Barwick (tbarwick@stjohnsmclean.org) including "White House" on the memo line. **Six spaces out of 14 available.** Lunch follows at Old Ebbitt Grill.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 pm

This contemplative service includes flute, harp, organ, and piano meditations, as well as prayer, candlelight, and quiet reflection. Bring your cares and your sorrows and set them down before God as we prepare for Christmas and celebrate the coming lengthening of days.

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 21 at the 10:15 am Service

Through our experience of sacred Word and music, the story of the coming of Christ gradually unfolds and deepens our understanding of God's message of love and redemption. Lessons will be read by parishioners, seasonal anthems presented by the St. John's Choir, and familiar carols led by the organ and a brass quartet. There will also be an offering for children of all ages during the service.

THIRD SUNDAY SUPPER CHURCH

Sunday, December 21 at 5:00 pm in Shears Hall

Come to share a simple meal, enjoy each other's company, explore scripture's relevance to our lives, and partake in communion in a unique way. A \$5 per person suggested donation (\$20 family max) is appreciated for dinner. Please RSVP at bit.ly/sj-supper-church so we know you're coming.

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS AND MUSIC FUND

You can donate towards our **Altar flowers and greens** with a dedication in memory or in honor of a loved one. Make your donation online at bit.ly/sj-Flowers or by check payable to St. John's Church with "Greens" on the memo line. Include details about who the donation is in memory/honor of.

The **Music Fund** supports expenses outside St. John's yearly music budget: hiring additional instrumentalists and singers for worship, special concerts, miscellaneous items such as music stands and choir folders, and initiatives such as Second Sunday Evensong. You can donate either online at bit.ly/sj-Music or by check payable to St. John's Church with "Music Fund" on the memo line.

DIGITAL COMPLINE

Wednesdays from 8:00 to 8:20 pm on Zoom

"Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace." Join your fellow parishioners to rediscover the timeless poetry of the Book of Common Prayer. Come reconnect with Compline. All are welcome.

DRIVE OF THE MONTH: HELP RELIEVE FOOD INSECURITY

St. John's primary outreach partners (SHARE, Homestretch, and Second Story) are all experiencing increased needs for food items. **You can make a real difference by donating these items: Pasta (any type); Peanut Butter (15.5 oz); Individual Fruit Cups; Granola Bars.** Donated items can be placed on the green credenza in Shears Hall. Your contributions can help fill the gap and provide struggling families with dignity, hope, and relief during a difficult time.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA) meets Monday through Thursday at noon in our Community Room (on the lower level; enter through the back door adjacent to the playground). Additionally, there is a meeting every Friday at 8:30 pm in the Community Room, or if the weather's good, just outside. You can also call the Northern Virginia AA Intergroup hotline at 703-293-9753 or visit nvintergroup.org for other group listings. Have questions about AA? Contact a fellow parishioner at 571-334-0073.