

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

## The Second Sunday of Advent

### December 7, 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 Advent greens and flowers in the narthex are given by Mike and Susan Murphy in honor and in memory of the Greatest Generation, whose lives were changed forever on this day in 1941.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Please stand and sing*

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION 59 *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding*"

Merton

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant*      Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

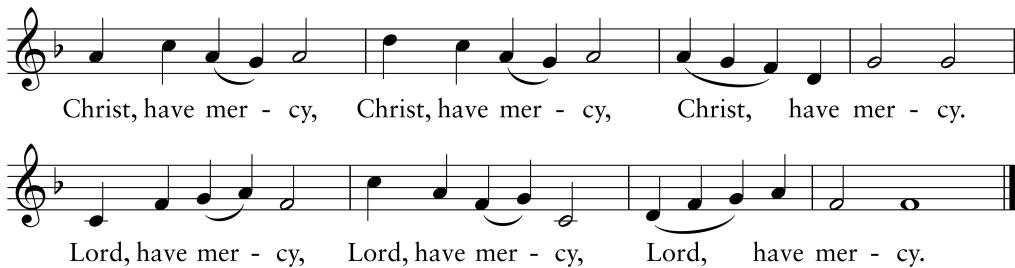
*Celebrant*      Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

*People*      Amen.

KYRIE

Robert Powell (1932-2025)

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



## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.  
 Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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 11:1-10

*Reader* A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

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 15:4-13

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

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

*Please stand and sing*

**HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE** “Come down, O Love divine”

*Down Ampney*

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

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,  
2. O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn  
3. Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
4. And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,  
and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing;  
shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;  
O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,  
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place  
and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

**THE GOSPEL**

Matthew 3:1-12

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

*Please be seated*

## THE SERMON

The Reverend Andrew Y. Moore, *Senior Associate 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.

*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 *A Spotless Rose*

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

A spotless Rose is blowing sprung from a tender root,  
of ancient seers' foreshowing, of Jesse promised fruit;  
Its fairest bud unfolds to light amid the cold, cold winter  
and in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said,  
is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest Maid;  
For through our God's great love and might the blessed babe she bare us  
in a cold, cold winter's night.

*-anon., 14<sup>th</sup> century*

*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.*

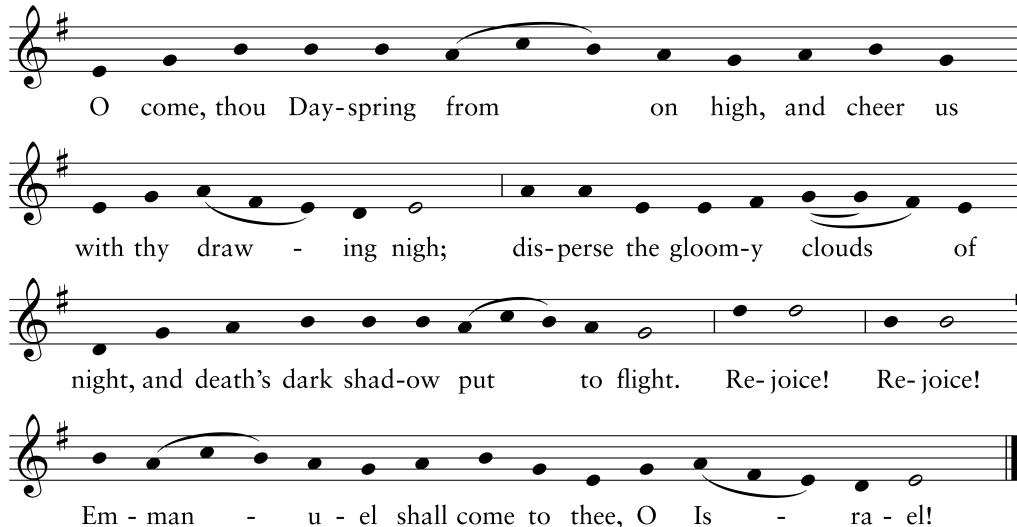


*Please stand and sing*

## 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 our longing for the promise of the Incarnate Word.*



O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us  
with thy draw - ing nigh; dis-perse the gloom-y clouds of  
night, and death's dark shad-ow put to flight. 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 &amp; 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.”

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.**

*People*

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.

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.

*People* **Amen.**

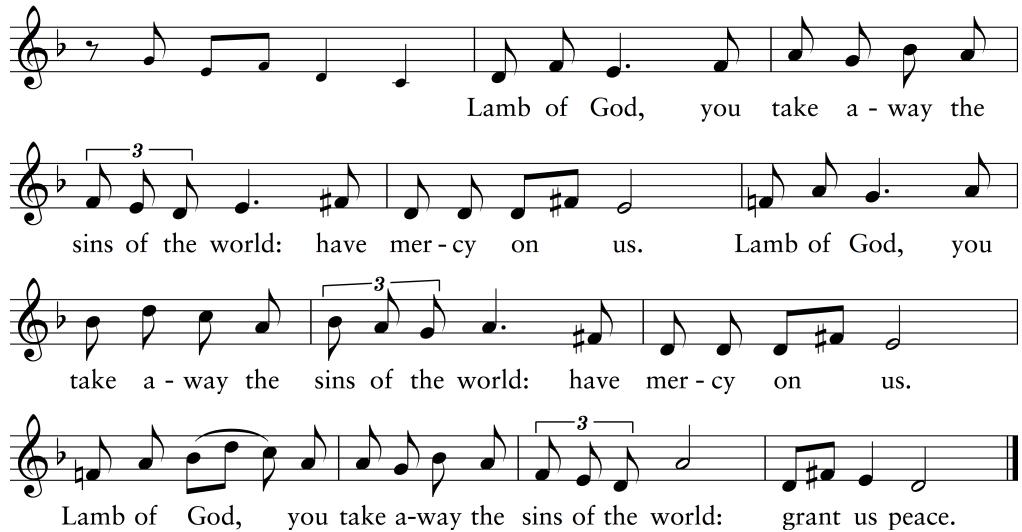
## THE LORD’S PRAYER

*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.*

## VOLUNTARY AT THE COMMUNION *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 660

Bach

HYMN AT THE COMMUNION "People, look East" (WLP - 724)

*Besançon Carol*



1 Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that  
 4 Stars, keep your watch. When night is dim one more light the  
 5 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

*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 67 “Comfort, comfort ye my people”

*Psalm 42*

VOLUNTARY *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 661

Bach

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, 131 pledges have been received for a total of over \$870,000. Please help us meet and exceed our 2026 stewardship campaign goal of \$1,150,000. You can pledge online at [bit.ly/sjpledge](https://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

|                                 |          |  |
|---------------------------------|----------|--|
| <b>Acolytes</b>                 | 8:00 am  | Liliana DeLong and Finnin Cullen                     |
|                                 | 10:15 am | Sydney Tregoning, Jack Tregoning, and Henry McNeilly |
| <b>Lay Readers</b>              | 8:00 am  | Rod Page   |
|                                 | 10:15 am | Kevin Swanson, Jack Tregoning, and Wallace Benton    |
| <b>Chalice Bearers</b>          | 8:00 am  | Bobbi Bowman and Rod Page                            |
|                                 | 10:15 am | Kevin Swanson and Caroline Prout                     |
| <b>Ushers</b>                   | 8:00 am  | Clarke Craine  |
|                                 | 10:15 am | John Joy, Greg Dole, Bob Smoot, and Dana Sherman     |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>              | 8:00 am  | Elizabeth Stern                                      |
|                                 | 10:15 am | Jayne Swanson  |
| <b>Flower Guild</b>             |          | Kathy Abib, Sarah Stump, and Catherine Marzin        |
| <b>Vestry Member of the Day</b> |          | Zac Merriman   |

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“O come, O come, Emmanuel” (stz. 6) Words: Latin, ca. 9<sup>th</sup> cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890). Public domain.

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## PRAYER LIST

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

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Holy Cross, Batesville; St. Asaph's, Bowling Green; and St. James', Louisa.

We give thanks for those who celebrate birthdays this week: Dave Pritchett, Lisa Sullivan, Meredith Andre, Charlotte Chewning, Julian Derevjanik, Tim Cargol, Gregory Neppl, Anne Nightingale, Jeff Reed, Keith Willner, George Grandison, Dan Smoot, Mary Bishop, Greg Dole, Erich Laughlin, Susan Elliott, and Thomas Shanmugam; and for those who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week: Jerry & Jim Zurn, Lynda & Chuck Robb, Michael & Bruce Houston, Jean & Sam Williams, and Lorraine & Jack Hannon.

### PARISHIONERS

Sally Johnson  
Bruce  
Dee Smoot  
Barbara Coffin

Bill and Sandy Silzer  
Judith Mueller  
Susan Arthur

Mary Lee Coffey  
Jay Andre  
Chase Helein

### 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  
Marily-Anne  
Maxine Harvey  
Sue Clarke  
Heather Tweed  
Mac  
Mike Koch  
Allie Acosta

We pray for the departed, especially Viola Fletcher, and for all who mourn.

To add someone to the Prayer List,  
email [churchmail@stjohnsmclean.org](mailto:churchmail@stjohnsmclean.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SUNDAY FORUM: WISDOM OF THE MYSTICS (PART 5)

**Today at 9:15 am in Shears Hall; Led by the Rev. Andrew Moore**

Join us for a final Sunday Forum discussion of the year. Discover how the powerful, personal experiences of saints unlocked deep insights into the nature of God and explore how their wisdom can practically transform your relationship with God and enrich your daily life today.

### WOMEN IN FAITH (WIF)

**Tuesday, December 9 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in Brooks Library**

We will gather to reflect and consider in more depth, the topic of “Practicing Joy.” Our Senior Associate Rector, the Rev. Andrew Moore will present and lead the discussion, with reflections on how cultivating joy can facilitate healing, as well as practices we can use to place joy at the center of their lives. All women are welcome. Snacks, coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be served!

### CARING CLOSE KNIT CRAFTERS (CCKC)

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

CCKC has expanded 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 [marthawhigh@icloud.com](mailto:marthawhigh@icloud.com).

### RECTOR'S ST. NICHOLAS LUNCHEON

**Thursday, December 11 at Noon in Shears Hall 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. Please RSVP to Pamela Fox at [pamelafox06@gmail.com](mailto:pamelafox06@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. 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](https://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](mailto: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](https://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](mailto:sbenton@stjohnsmclean.org).

*Please help make Carols & Cocoa after our 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, setup, and cleanup. Please visit [bit.ly/sjCarolsCocoa25](https://bit.ly/sjCarolsCocoa25) to sign up for the available slots. Thank you! Questions? Contact Katherine Haskell at [haskellkz@gmail.com](mailto: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! Youth are encouraged to bring a wrapped gift valued around \$10 for our gift exchange.

## 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](mailto:tbarwick@stjohnsmclean.org)) including "White House" on the memo line. **Just a few spaces 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](http://bit.ly/sj-supper-church) so we know you're coming.

## CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS AND MUSIC FUND

### *Contribute by Sunday, December 14 for inclusion in the Christmas Service Bulletins*

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](http://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](http://bit.ly/sj-Music) or by check payable to St. John's Church with "Music Fund" on the memo line.

## DRIVE OF THE MONTH: GIVING TREE

The Missions Committee invites you to visit the St. John's "Giving Tree" in the narthex. Each ornament represents a gift to a child in the Homestretch program. These kids have experienced homelessness for some part of their young lives, and a holiday gift will mean a lot to them. Please take a gift tag as you enter or leave the church. Bring the gift back wrapped, and with the tag taped to the gift. Please bring the gift back no later than December 15 so we can deliver to Homestretch.

**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](http://nvintergroup.org) for other group listings. Have questions about AA? Contact a fellow parishioner at 571-334-0073.

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## CHRISTMAS EVE

- **1:00 pm Christmas Service for Young Children (new time)**

Get an early start to your Christmas festivities at this child-friendly abbreviated service of carols and communion with a special telling of the Christmas Story.

- **4:00 pm Candlelight Service with Musical Prelude at 3:30 pm**
- **8:00 pm Candlelight Service with Musical Prelude at 7:30 pm**

These identical services joyfully celebrate the birth of our Savior with Holy Eucharist and a Christmas sermon from the Rector. Organ, choir, and woodwind instruments will lead the congregation in singing favorite Christmas music. Come early for an extended seasonal prelude.

*Childcare is available in the nursery at 1:00 and 4:00 pm.*

## CHRISTMAS DAY

- **10:15 am Holy Eucharist**

Celebrate Christmas morning at a service including a sermon and the singing of Christmas carols.

# Rector's St. Nicholas Luncheon

**Thursday, Dec. 11**  
**Noon in Shears Hall**

RSVP to Pamela Fox  
by Nov. 30  
703-677-7823 or  
[pamelaf06@gmail.com.](mailto:pamelaf06@gmail.com)



# ADVENT-URE DAY

**Saturday, Dec. 13**  
**10:00 am – Noon**





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## CLERGY AND STAFF

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

The Reverend Andrew Y. Moore, *Senior Associate Rector*

Dr. Karl J. Robson, *Director of Music*

Sally Benton, *Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries*

Tim Barwick, *Parish Administrator*

Elys A. McLean, *Director of Communications*

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## VESTRY

Kevin Swanson, *Senior Warden*

Rodney Page, *Chancellor*

Osmar Abib

Lauren Chewning

Margaret Kerfoot

Molly Nesline

John Brown

Jeff Cimbalo

Sarah Lang

Nancy Simon

Kathleen Tregoning

Shelli Bushman

Katherine Haskell

Mary Martin

John Stacey

Lauren Chewning, *Registrar*

Susan Arthur, John Barkmeyer, and Maggie Keller, *Diocesan Delegates*

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*A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia  
established 1866*

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