

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist

December 14, 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 *Veni Emmanuel*

arr. Heathcote Statham (1889-1973)

Please stand and sing

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION 640 "Watchman, tell us of the night"

Aberystwyth

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

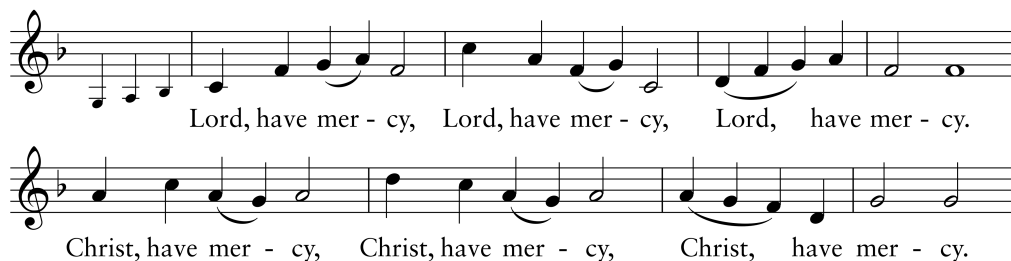
Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

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)



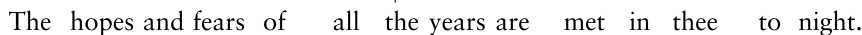
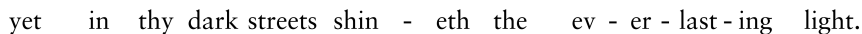
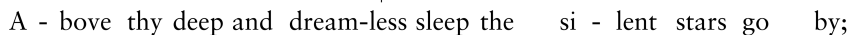
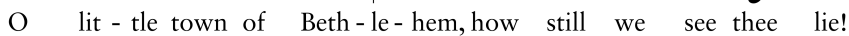


Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

Richmond

St. Louis



“Away in a manger”

Cradle Song

A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

The musical score for "Away in a manger" is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The melody is simple and gentle, with a range of one octave. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

“Joy to the world!”

Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re -
ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, and
heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.

The musical score for "Joy to the world!" is written in D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The melody is more lively and rhythmic than the first piece, with a range of one octave. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

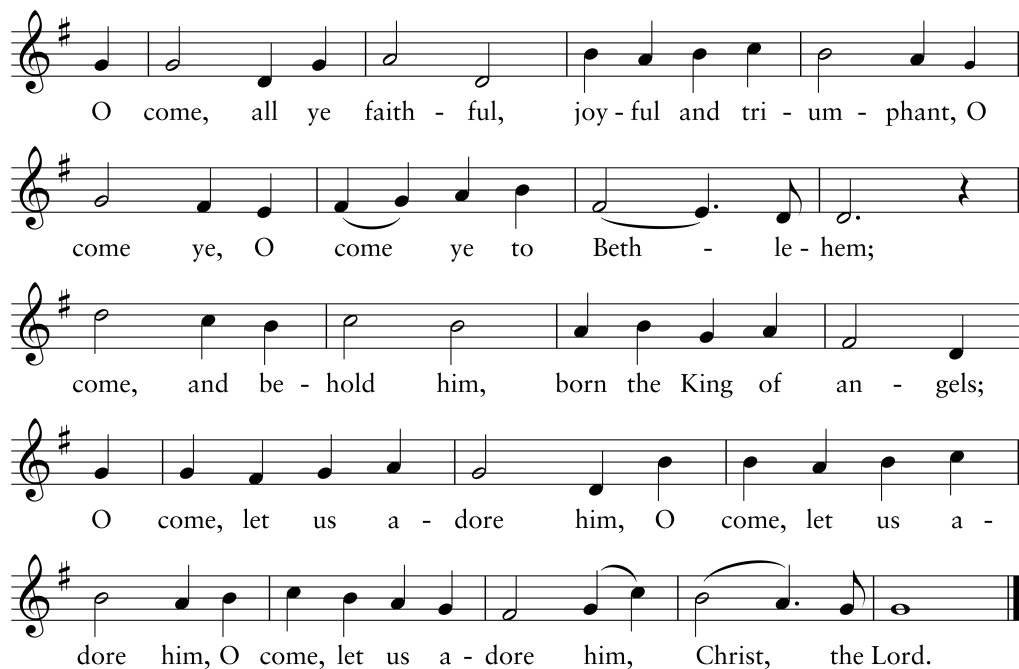
“We three kings”

Three Kings of Orient

We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
O star of won - der, star of night,
star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,
still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

“O come, all ye faithful”

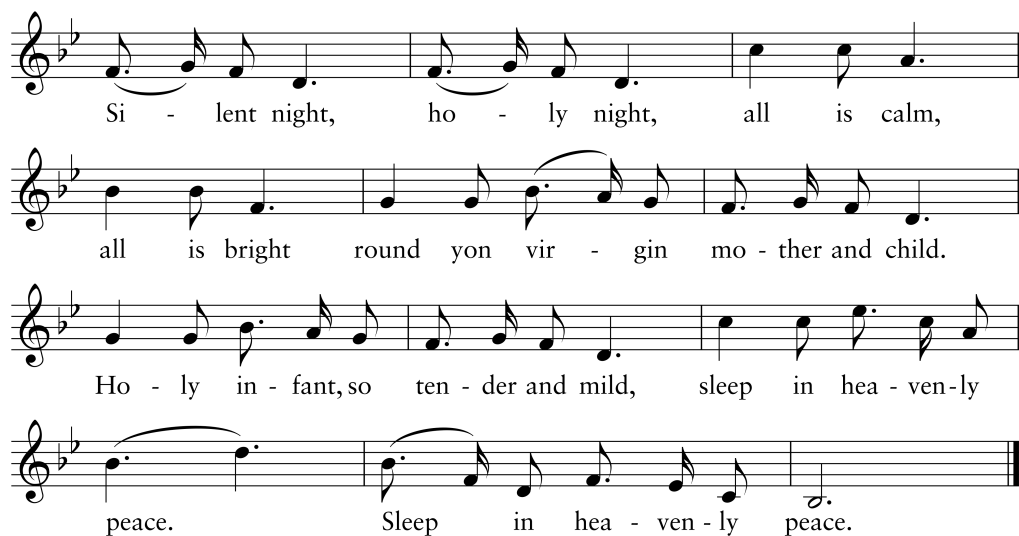
Adeste fideles



O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

“Silent night, holy night”

Stille Nacht



Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.

Please stand

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 *Magnificat in D minor* Thomas Attwood Walmisley (1814-1856)

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 shown 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

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.



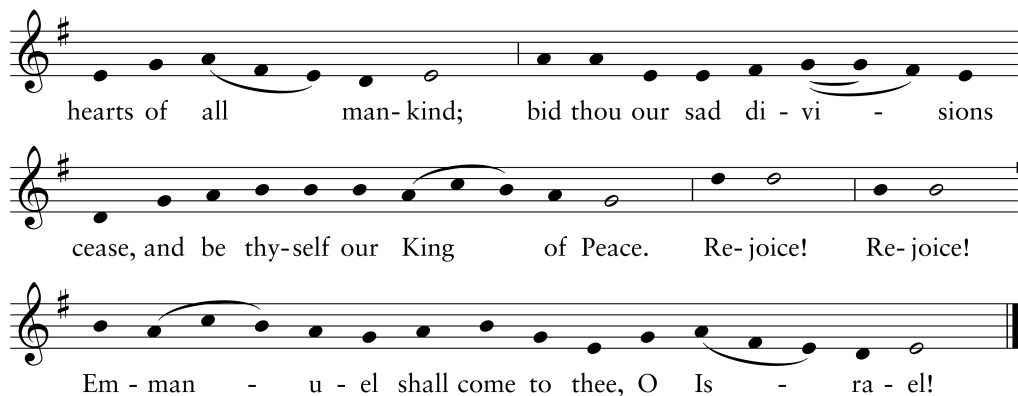
Please stand and sing

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.





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.**

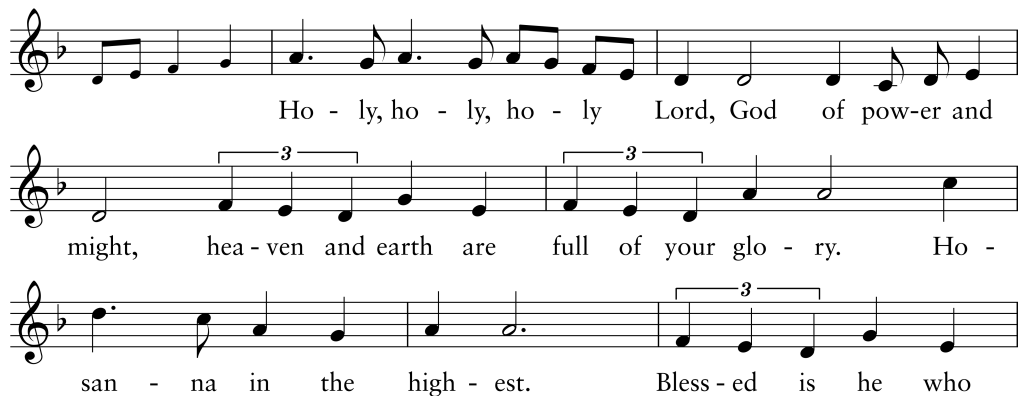
Celebrant It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

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





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.

People 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.

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.**

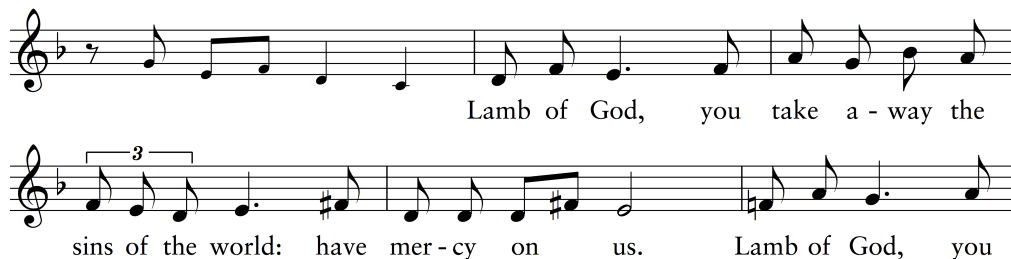
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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: 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 *Comfort Ye and Every Valley,*
from Messiah

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
Tom Drew, *tenor*

Comfort ye my people, saith your God: Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd, that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness:

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low,
the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

-Isaiah 40:1-4

HYMN AT THE COMMUNION 76 “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

Winchester New

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 66 “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

Stuttgart

VOLUNTARY *Fantasia on “Veni Emmanuel”*

Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

AFTER THE SERVICE, PLEASE JOIN US
FOR CAROLS AND COCOA IN SHEARS HALL.

Thank you for lifting your voice and joining our *Chorus of Generosity*. As of this week, 140 pledges have been received for a total of over \$910,000. **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 | Thomas Shanmugam and William Shanmugam |
| Lay Readers | 8:00 am | Caroline Prout and Mark Haskell |
| Chalice Bearers | 8:00 am | Caroline Prout and Mimsy Stirn |
| | 10:15 am | Margaret Kerfoot and Lee DeLong |
| Ushers | 8:00 am | Clarke Craine |
| | 10:15 am | Jay Howell, Debbie Watson, Fred Haynes, and Greg Dole |
| Altar Guild | 8:00 am | Elizabeth Stern |
| | 10:15 am | Dawn Jones and Kristin Saunders |
| Flower Guild | | Kathy Abib and Catherine Marzin |
| Hospitality Hosts | | Katherine Haskell and Mark Haskell |
| Vestry Member of the Day | | Mike Murphy |

VESTRY

Kevin Swanson, *Senior Warden*
Rodney Page, *Chancellor*

Mike Murphy, *Junior Warden*
Greg Stayin, *Treasurer*

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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PRAYER LIST

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Santa Maria, Falls Church; St. Barnabas, Annandale; and Westover, Charles City.

We give thanks for those who celebrate birthdays this week: Andrew Hamilton, Marian Andre, Kate Mackie, Alexander Sharpe, Tamara Seal, Meghan Kearney, Eleanore Corini, and Mignon Williams; and for those who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week: Michael & Bruce Houston, Jean & Sam Williams, and Lorraine & Jack Hannon.

PARISHIONERS

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Sally Johnson | Bill and Sandy Silzer | Jay Andre |
| Bruce | Judith Mueller | Maria Dacoba |
| Dee Smoot | Susan Arthur | Manny Dacoba |
| Barbara Coffin | Mary Lee Coffey | |

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Rob Barnes and Family | Jim Dole | Chet Levine |
| John Sheehan | Melissa Glorieux | Isabella Coffin |
| Robin | Sophia Ann Boursiguot | Carson Porter |
| David | Norene Yowell | Arlo William |
| Susan | Susan Snell | Jim |
| Karolyn Morigi Armstrong | Lee Johnson | Marilyn-Anne |
| Jess and David Hunt | Jack Gleason | Maxine Harvey |
| Reilly Clautice | Edwina Johnson | Sue Clarke |
| Phyllis Vaughan | Shirley James | Heather Tweed |
| Cecil Clark | Bennett Barletta | Mac |
| Carl Lang | Bruce Clarke | Mike Koch |
| Jacob, Jordan and Katie Craft | Harris | Allie Acosta |
| Kevin Keane | Jim Griffith | Michael Marden |
| Liz | Marion Johnson | |
| David | Judy Watson | |
| Lisa Sierant | Bruce and Sue Gross | |

We pray for the departed, especially Jo Anne Boyce, and for all who mourn.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT THIS MORNING

at the 10:15 am service – Followed by Carols & Cocoa

Children participating in the pageant should start the service upstairs with our adult volunteers. After the pageant, volunteers will help collect costumes, allowing children to rejoin their families during the announcements. *There will be no Sunday School this morning as we prepare for the Pageant.*

CHORAL EVENSONG TODAY

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 TODAY

from 5:00 to 6:30 pm in the Community Room

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.

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS AND MUSIC FUND

Contribute by TODAY 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 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.

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. **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 so we know you're coming.

The Missions Committee wishes to thank all those who have participated in our annual Giving Tree drive. Please bring your wrapped gift, with the tag taped to it, to church by December 15.

JOIN ST. FRANCIS, GREAT FALLS IN SUPPORTING FACETS HYPOTHERMIA SHELTER

St. Francis, Great Falls is hosting a hypothermia shelter for 40 individuals from December 21 to 28. St. John's has been invited to help support this important ministry in two ways. Please visit bit.ly/hypo-volunteer25 to sign up to volunteer. Please visit bit.ly/hypo-supplies25 to sign up to donate food/supplies. Help us meet this critical need during the Christmas season.

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.

EPIPHANY PARTY

Sunday, January 4 after the 10:15 Service

We will gather to close out the season of Christmas and ring in Epiphany with a festive bonfire. People are encouraged to bring a piece of Christmas greenery to burn to symbolize the end of Christmastide. We will also celebrate the arrival of the Magi to Jesus with a blessing of chalk to take home to chalk our doors and bless our homes in the new year. Please join us to celebrate.

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.

Lessons and Carols

**Dec. 21
at 10:15 am**

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.



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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sbenton@stjohnsmclean.org
tbarwick@stjohnsmclean.org
emclean@stjohnsmclean.org



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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