



A FESTIVAL OF  
NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS  
December 21, 2025 | 10:15 am

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

*This booklet provides 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.*

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*Children's Offering during Lessons and Carols*

*During this morning's service, we are offering an alternative activity for children  
on the lower level in the Community Room.*

*Children will have a chance to reflect on a few of the scriptures with crafts and a snack.*

*If you would like for your child to participate,  
you can bring them downstairs at any point in the service.*

*Ushers can offer directions if you are unfamiliar with the building.*

*Children should be collected at the conclusion of the service.*

VOLUNTARIES *Christmas Carols*

arr. Harry Richards

*Please stand and sing*

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

*Irby*

*stanzas 1-2: choir*

*stanzas 4-6: all*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a  
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is  
4 For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by  
5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his  
6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the



low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her  
God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a  
day like us he grew, he was lit - tle, weak and  
own re - deem - ing love, for that child so dear and  
ox - en stand - ing by, we shall see him; but in



ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry  
sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the  
help - less, tears and smiles like us he knew; and he  
gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; and he  
hea - ven, set at God's right hand on high; when like



was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.  
feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.  
leads his child - ren on to the place where he is gone.  
stars his child - ren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

## THE BIDDING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Officiant* Beloved in Christ, in this Season of our Lord's Incarnation let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all people; for love and unity within the Church Christ came to build, and especially in this country, this Commonwealth, and within this community. And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in Christ's name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

*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.**

*Officiant* The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

*People* **Amen.**



*Please be seated*

**THE FIRST LESSON** Genesis 3:8-15, 22-24

Janice Brambilla

*God announces in the Garden of Eden  
that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Adam and Eve heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever" — therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

**CAROL** *Adam Lay Ybounden*

Richard Webster (1952-)

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond: four thousand winter thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book.  
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been, ne had never our lady a been heavné queen.  
Blessed be the time that apple taken was. Therefore we moun singen: Deo gracias.

*-English, 15<sup>th</sup> century*

THE SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

James Blecksmith Walters

*God promises to faithful Abraham  
that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

CAROL *Keep Your Lamps*

André Thomas (1952-)

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.  
Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

*-trad. Spiritual*

THE THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Mark Haskell

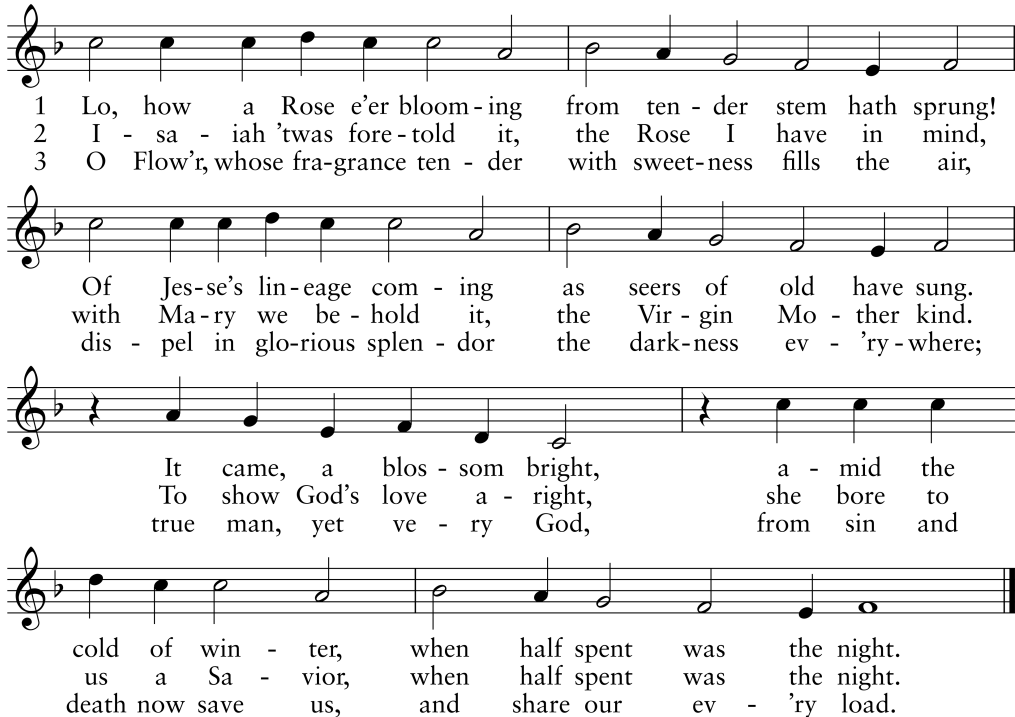
*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Please stand and sing*

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

*Es ist ein Ros*



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath sprung!  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore-told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
3 O Flow'r, whose fra-grance ten-der with sweet-ness fills the air,  
Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing as seers of old have sung.  
with Ma-ry we be-hold it, the Vir-gin Mo-ther kind.  
dis-pel in glo-rious splen-dor the dark-ness ev-'ry-where;  
It came, a blos-som bright, a-mid the  
To show God's love a-right, she bore to  
true man, yet ve-ry God, from sin and  
cold of win-ter, when half spent was the night.  
us a Sa-vior, when half spent was the night.  
death now save us, and share our ev-'ry load.

*Please be seated*

THE FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9

Shelli Bushman

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And 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; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

CAROL *O magnum mysterium*

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

*O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praeseptio.*

*O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt  
portare Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia.*

O great mystery, and remarkable sacrament,  
that animals witness the Lord born, laid in a manger.  
O blessed Virgin, whose womb was deemed worthy  
to carry our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

*-responsorial chant from Matins of Christmas Day*

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35

Mimsy Stirn

*The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

CAROL *Two Kings*

Joseph W. Clokey (1890-1960)

Yet if His Majesty, our Sovereign Lord,  
should of his own accord friendly himself invite, and say, "I'll be your guest tomorrow night."  
How we should stir ourselves, call and command all hands to work, "Let no one idle stand!"

"Set me fine Spanish tables in the hall, see they are fitted all.

Let there be room to eat and orders taken that there want no meat.

See every sconce and candlestick made bright, that without tapers they may give a light!"

But at the coming of the King of Heaven, all's set at six and seven. We wallow in our sin.

Christ cannot find a chamber at the inn.

We entertain him always as a stranger, and as at first still lodge him in the manger.

*-from a Christ Church Manuscript, ca. 16<sup>th</sup> century*

## THE SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1, 3-7

Kevin Swanson

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*Please stand and sing*

### CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

*Forest Green*



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last-ing Light;  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro-claim the ho - ly birth!  
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid-ings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.  
and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en-ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man-u - el!

*Please be seated*

**THE SEVENTH LESSON** Luke 2:8-14, 15-16

Peter Fox

*The Shepherds go to the Manger.*

In that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!”

**CAROL** *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

Carl Schalk (1929-2021)

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
sweet, newborn babe, how frail, and in a manger bed:  
a still small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare:  
a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how love was born  
and burned its way into my heart: unasked, unforced, unearned.  
To die, to live, and not alone for me.

*-Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-2008)*

**THE EIGHTH LESSON** Matthew 2:1-11      The Reverend Andrew Y. Moore, *Senior Associate Rector*

*The Three Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.’” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

CAROL *Here Is the Little Door*

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift!  
We need not wander more, but enter with our gift;  
our gift of finest gold, gold that was never bought nor sold;  
myrrh to be strewn about his bed;  
incense in clouds about his head;  
all for the child that stirs not in his sleep,  
but holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about his bed, for each he has a gift;  
see how his eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift!  
For gold, he gives a keen-edged sword. (Defend with it thy little Lord!)  
For incense, smoke of battle red,  
myrrh for the honored happy dead;  
gifts for his children, terrible and sweet;  
touched by such tiny hands, and Oh such tiny feet.

*-Frances Chesterton (1869-1938)*

*Please stand*

THE NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

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

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

# CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

*Adeste fideles*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 6 Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove;  
 Je - sus, to thee be glo - ry giv'n;

come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

*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.*





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.*



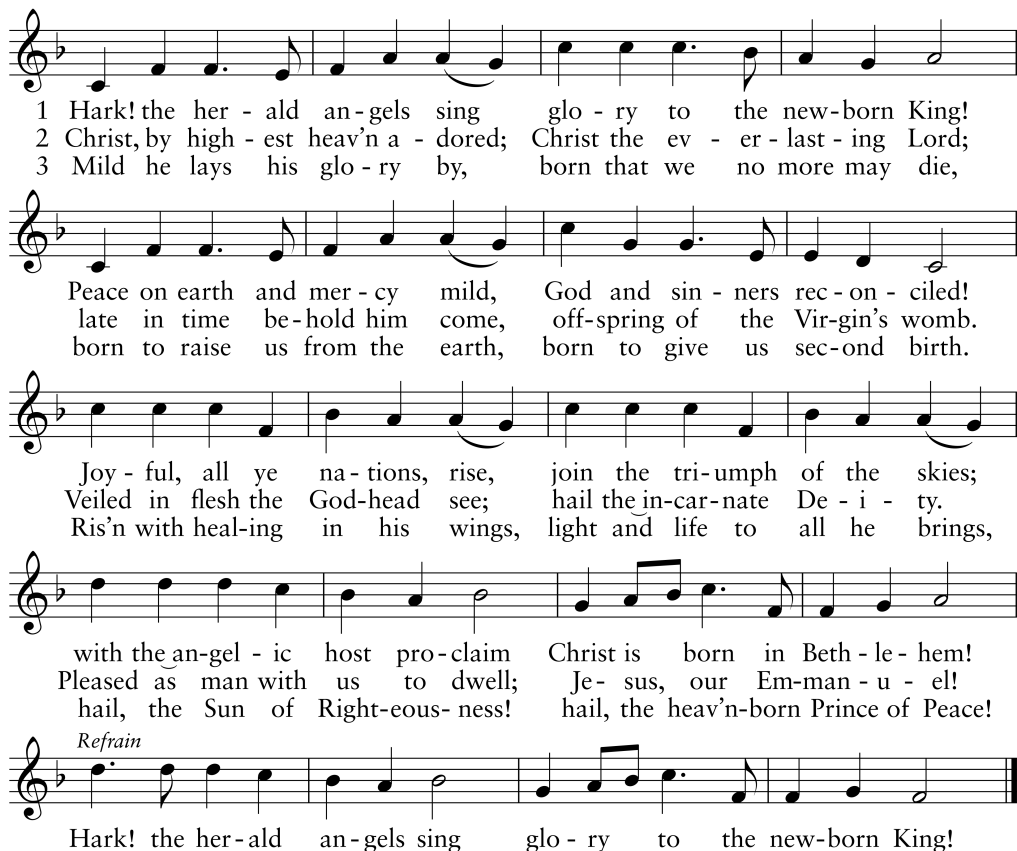
*Please stand*

**THE CLOSING COLLECT AND BLESSING**

- Officiant* Let us pray.  
O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.
- People* **Amen.**
- Officiant* Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- People* **Amen.**

# HYMN AT THE CLOSING

Mendelssohn



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord;

3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!

late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb.

born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;

Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.

Ris'n with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!

Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!

hail, the Sun of Right-eous- ness! hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

VOLUNTARIES *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Christmas Carols*

arr. Harry Richards

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

## LEADERS IN THE LITURGY

<b>Officiant</b>	The Reverend Joshua D. Armstrong-Walters, <i>Rector</i>
<b><u>The St. John's Choir</u></b>	Dr. Karl Robson, <i>Director of Music</i>
<b>Sopranos</b>	Diane Archer, Ashi Day, Sara Duke, Isabel Gantt, Anne Gruner, Ketti Muschler, Susan Symington
<b>Altos</b>	Emily Blecksmith, Liz Hunt, Charlotte Knapp, Sue Perry, Kathleen Tregoning, Louisa Waycott, Eleanor Walters, Kate Wigmore
<b>Tenors</b>	John Barkmeyer, Nicholas Carratura, Tom Drew, Mel Zurn
<b>Basses</b>	Chase Helein, David Gradin, Elliot Matheny
<b><u>Brass</u></b>	
<b>Trumpets</b>	Brandon Almagro, Kevin Businsky
<b>Horn</b>	Nat Willson
<b>Trombone</b>	Jeff Harrigan

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY

<b>Acolytes</b>	Sydney Tregoning, Jack Tregoning, and Henry McNeilly
<b>Ushers</b>	Roland Saunders, Greg Dole, John Joy, and Jack Hannon
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bunny Baker & Elizabeth Richardson
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Alexis Fooshé
<b>Hospitality Host</b>	Nancy Simon

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## PRAYER LIST

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

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Grace (Cismont), Keswick.

We give thanks for those who celebrate birthdays this week: Charlie Martin, Dawn Jones, Mary-Lacey Reuther, Hadley Anderson, Jack Tregoning, Campbell Tyler, Nicole Egge, and Greg Parseghian; and for those who celebrate wedding anniversaries this week: Eleanore & Joseph Corini.

### PARISHIONERS

Sally Johnson	Bill and Sandy Silzer	Maria Dacoba
Bruce	Judith Mueller	Manny Dacoba
Dee Smoot	Susan Arthur	Mimi Heisey
Barbara Coffin	Jay Andre	

### 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	Marily-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	Dee and Alice Smith
David	Judy Watson	James Yarrison
Lisa Sierant	Bruce and Sue Gross	

We pray for the departed and for all who mourn.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THIRD SUNDAY SUPPER CHURCH

#### Today 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.

### 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](http://bit.ly/hypo-volunteer25) to sign up to volunteer. Please visit [bit.ly/hypo-supplies25](http://bit.ly/hypo-supplies25) to sign up to donate food/supplies. Help us meet this critical need during the Christmas season.

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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.

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### SANDWICH SUNDAY

#### Sunday, December 28

The fourth Sunday of the month is Sandwich Sunday at St. John's! All hands, large and small, are welcome for this outreach ministry to feed the hungry through Martha's Table. Please join us for sandwich making in Shears Hall throughout the morning, starting after the 8:00 am service until fellowship following the 10:15 am service.

### EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

#### 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.

## **SECOND SUNDAY CHORAL EVENSONG**

**Sunday, January 11 at 5:00 pm**

Join us for this monthly offering, led by an ensemble of twelve professional choristers, featuring music of Harold Friedell, Herbert Brewer, and John Gardner. 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.*

## **FOURTH SUNDAY STUDY**

**Sunday, January 25 from 9:10 to 10:00 am; In Person in Smoot Conference Room AND on Zoom**

Join us for this monthly offering. Led by parishioners, the discussion is based on resources from the Yale Bible Study series, Women in the Bible. This month we focus on the “The Woman of Valor” as described in the Hebrew Bible, as well as stories of women who became leaders of their people. There is no required preparation, and you are welcome to attend any or all discussions. Additional information on the YBS program can be found at [bit.ly/YBS-women-in-the-Bible](http://bit.ly/YBS-women-in-the-Bible). Join the Zoom option at [bit.ly/sj-4SS2526](http://bit.ly/sj-4SS2526) (Meeting ID: 868 0960 3846; Passcode: 128764).

## **CONCERT: TENET VOCAL ARTISTS**

**Saturday, February 7 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm**

This winter, experience deeply expressive Baroque music as the renowned TENET Vocal Artists of New York City returns to perform at St. John’s. TENET elevates music composed before 1800—a time before electricity, before amplification, when music’s power came purely from breath, sound, and silence. Stay tuned for upcoming ticket information.

## **MORE SAVE THE DATES:**

Booklovers Discussion - January 27

Jazz Sunday & Pancake Brunch - February 15

Ash Wednesday - February 18

Easter Sunday - April 5

Bishop’s Visitation - May 3

## **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 [stjohnsmclean.org](http://stjohnsmclean.org).

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.

# **Supper Church**

**BREAK BREAD  
TOGETHER**

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAYS  
at 5:00 PM**



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#### CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend Joshua D. Armstrong-Walters, <i>Rector</i>	jwalters@stjohnsmclean.org
The Reverend Andrew Y. Moore, <i>Senior Associate Rector</i>	amoore@stjohnsmclean.org
Dr. Karl J. Robson, <i>Director of Music</i>	krobson@stjohnsmclean.org
Sally Benton, <i>Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries</i>	sbenton@stjohnsmclean.org
Tim Barwick, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	tbarwick@stjohnsmclean.org
Elys A. McLean, <i>Director of Communications</i>	emclean@stjohnsmclean.org

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#### VESTRY

Kevin Swanson, <i>Senior Warden</i>	Mike Murphy, <i>Junior Warden</i>	
Rodney Page, <i>Chancellor</i>	Greg Stayin, <i>Treasurer</i>	
Osmar Abib	John Brown	Shelli Bushman
Lauren Chewning	Jeff Cimbalo	Katherine Haskell
Margaret Kerfoot	Sarah Lang	Mary Martin
Molly Nesline	Nancy Simon	John Stacey
	Kathleen Tregoning	

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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