



# St. Jude's Episcopal Church

*Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching out to Others*

**December 28, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.**  
**The First Sunday after Christmas Day**

**--- Everyone is WELCOME here, for everyone is beloved by GOD ---**

On the Fourth Day of Christmas, you came to St Jude's and left the "colley birds" at home. Thank you, and we are pleased to see you! This first Sunday in "Christmastide" always features the beginning verses, called the Prologue, of John's Gospel; they reflect on the theology rather than the action, of Jesus' birth. The incarnation of a god as a human being was frequently claimed by ancient kings, pharaohs and emperors, in support of their absolute power and authority. Jesus' humble origin story in Luke, retold every Christmas Eve, disguises the divine mystery of "the Word made flesh" proclaimed by John. His poetry, better than biology, leads our understanding of God's purposes.

December 28 is usually the **Feast of the Holy Innocents** in the Church calendar, pushed aside today by a Sunday celebration but still influencing our prayer concerns. While we will not be holding a separate service this year, in our prayers we will remember the children killed by King Herod the Great as he searched for Jesus (Matthew 2:16), young victims of violence in every time and place, and children you love who died far too soon.

As always, our worship service includes the celebration of the **Holy Eucharist (Communion)**, and all persons are invited to receive the Sacrament, no questions asked. We bless homemade gluten-free Bread, which you may dip into the small bowl of wine; or, consume your bread and sip wine from the chalice. Or just cross your arms over your chest to decline receiving the wine. You may also ask a blessing from the priest.

**Hymn #** These hymns are located in the blue Hymnal 1982 in your pew.

**WLP #** These hymns are located in the green hymnal "Wonder, Love & Praise"

## *The Gathering of the Community*

**Prelude** \_\_\_\_\_

**Opening Hymn #107** \_\_\_\_\_ *Good Christian friends, rejoice*

## Christmas Acclamation.

*Presider* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

*People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*Presider* O Christ, Light of life, you were born into human pain and joy, and gave us power to be your children: Cleanse our hearts and grant us faith to see your presence among us, so that all creation may sing new songs of gladness and walk in the way of peace. Amen.

## Song of Praise: Hymn #96, vs 1,3 \_\_\_\_\_ *Angels we have heard on high*

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

*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

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

*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## Collect of the Day \_\_\_\_\_

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Presider* Let us pray, together.

*All* Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## *The Proclamation of the Word*

*Please be seated.*

## The First Reading \_\_\_\_\_ *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

*Reader* A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
 so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
 to spring up before all the nations.  
 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
 and her salvation like a burning torch.  
 The nations shall see your vindication,  
 and all the kings your glory;  
 and you shall be called by a new name  
 that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm** \_\_\_\_\_ *Psalm 147:13-21*

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
    praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
    he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
    he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
    and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
    he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
    who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*

he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.  
21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!

**The Second Reading** \_\_\_\_\_ *Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*

*Reader* A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn #82** \_\_\_\_\_ *Of the Father's Love begotten*

**The Gospel Reading** *Remain standing as able* \_\_\_\_\_ *John 1:1-18*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

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

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know

him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 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 or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

**The Sermon** *Please be seated* \_\_\_\_\_ *The Rev. Mary Jo Schuetz*  
*Please remain in silence for a moment of reflection following the sermon.*

**The Nicene Creed** *Please stand* \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**Prayers of the People** *Please kneel or stand, as able* \_\_\_\_\_

*Deacon* Gracious and loving God, in Jesus you have filled all humanity with your divine life: Hear our prayers of joy and thanksgiving as we offer our supplications to you, saying Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

*Intercessor* You have entrusted the Church with good news of great joy for all people: Inspire our witness, that we may spread the light of Jesus' love to all humanity. Bless those who lead us in ministries to the world, especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, Anne our Assisting Bishop, the clergy and lay leaders of our diocese and parish. *Silence.*  
Glory to God in the highest,

*People* **and peace to God's people on earth.**

*Intercessor* Let your power and compassion guide those who exercise authority on earth, that they may be servants of peace, bringing comfort and security to all who are vulnerable, especially children. We pray for Donald our President, Gretchen our Governor, and all who have been entrusted with power over others. *Silence.*  
Glory to God in the highest,

*People* **and peace to God's people on earth.**

*Intercessor* Embrace with your protection all who are oppressed: refugees, migrants and displaced people, those threatened by war and violence, and families with no place to call home. *Silence.*  
Glory to God in the highest,

*People* **and peace to God's people on earth.**

*Intercessor* Fill this community with hospitality and generosity, that we may care for one another and celebrate the joy of your presence in fragile humanity. We give you thanks for all the agencies who provide shelter, food, clothing and basic

needs, in our name and with our support, to the poor and vulnerable. *Silence.*  
Glory to God in the highest,

*People*     **and peace to God's people on earth.**

*Intercessor*   We entrust to your divine grace all who are on our Prayer List, and others we name aloud: *Names are invited.* Bring them holy comfort and human caring in their time of need. *Silence.*

*People*     Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to God's people on earth.**

*Intercessor*   We bless you for the lives of people we love, who have died and now dwell with you in heaven. For those in whose memory our Christmas flowers were given, and all whose absence from our homes and our church is felt deeply. We offer you the names carried in our hearts: *Names are invited.*

And today we grieve especially the loss of innocent human life in the deaths of your precious children around the world, because of wars in places like Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan; because of poverty, disease and negligence; because of accidents and anger. Give your grace to all those who grieve for children, that they may find comfort in your presence and be strengthened by your Spirit. *Names of children, and those who mourn for them, are invited.*

*Presider*     We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin \_\_\_\_\_

*Deacon*     Gathered in the name of Jesus, let us remember and confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*silence, kneeling as able*)

*All*           **Gracious God: In Christ Jesus you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light, to honor it in others and in ourselves. Forgive us our sins of thought, word and deed; and renew our hopes, that we may live in peace with you and one another; we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Absolution

*Presider* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace *Please stand*

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

*People* **And also with you!**

*Let us share God's peace with one another*

## Welcome and Announcements

## Offertory

*If you wish to give online, point your phone's camera at the QR code to the right and tap the webpage that pops up. It will take you to the St. Jude's online giving form!*



**Offertory Duet** \_\_\_\_\_ *Child of the Poor / What child is this*  
*Sung by Kris and Greg Forsyth*

**Doxology** *Please stand as our gifts are brought to the altar* \_\_\_\_\_ *"Old 100<sup>th</sup>"*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## *The Celebration of the Eucharist*

**Eucharistic Prayer "A"** \_\_\_\_\_ BCP p. 361

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



*Priest*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus: WLP #858** \_\_\_\_\_ *Land of Rest*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven 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 - sa - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people may remain standing or may kneel as the priest continues.*

*Priest*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All*            **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Priest*        We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen!**

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

*All*            **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of Bread,** *silence follows* \_\_\_\_\_

*Priest*        Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People*        **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

**An Invitation to Communion**\_\_\_\_\_ *source: Iona Community*

*Priest*        Our feast of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the feast of company with Jesus, and all who love him.

*Deacon* It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.

*Priest* So come and share in this banquet: You have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

*Deacon* These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

**The Communion** *Please be seated until invited by the Ushers to come forward, or let them know if you would like Communion brought to you in the pew. **All are welcome** but no one is obliged to receive. If you would prefer not to receive Communion, please cross your arms across your chest indicating you would like to receive a blessing instead. Today we are blessing gluten-free bread. The wine may be sipped from the chalice, or wait to intinct (dip your bread) into the small bowl of blessed wine. Please do not intinct into the chalice.*

**Communion Hymns #98** \_\_\_\_\_ *Unto us a child is born*  
*and #247* \_\_\_\_\_ *Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child*

**Prayer after Communion** *Please stand, or kneel* \_\_\_\_\_

*Priest* Let us pray.

*All* **Eternal God, heavenly Father,**  
**you have graciously accepted us as living members**  
**of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,**  
**and you have fed us with spiritual food**  
**in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**  
**Send us now into the world in peace,**  
**and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you**  
**with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Christmas Blessing,** *following a silence*

*Priest* May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## *The Sending Out*

**Sending Out Hymn #105** \_\_\_\_\_ *God rest you merry, gentlemen*

**Sending Out** *The Deacon dismisses the congregation, after which the people respond:*

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Postlude** \_\_\_\_\_

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- *Child of the Poor*, by Scott Soper © 1993 OCP publishing.
- *What child is this*, text by William Dix, tune *Greensleeves* 16<sup>th</sup> c. attributed to Henry VIII.
- *Sanctus* setting, *Land of Rest*: American folk tune adapt. Marcia Pruner, © 1980 Church Pension Fund.

<u><b>Serving at the Liturgy</b></u>	<u><b>Today</b></u>	<u><b>Next Sunday (1/4/26)</b></u>
<i>Presider</i>	Rev. Mary Jo Schuetz	Rev. Susan A Williams
<i>Assisting</i>	Rev. Dcn. Judy Marinco	Dcn Judy Marinco
<i>Choir Director</i>	Katie Young	Katie Young
<i>Organist</i>	Ron Spaulding	Ron Spaulding
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Clay Putnam	Paul Dolza
<i>Intinction Cup</i>	Amy Freeman	Amy Freeman
<i>Reader</i>	Dolores Ruby	Deb James
<i>Prayers</i>	Paul Dolza	Dave James
<i>Ushers</i>	Dave & Deb James	Dave & Denise Rayner
<i>Live-streamer</i>	Paul Dolza	Dave Rayner
<i>Vestry of the Day</i>	??	??
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Terri H., Francine J.	Sarah D., Lisa Cronk
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Lynne Ronthi	??

**The office is closed this week for the holidays. You can email Rev. Susan or Liz Sailus. We will reopen Monday, January 4 at 9 am.**

There is a sign up for 2026 coffee hour and altar flowers on the bulletin board in Vandenberg Hall!

This is the last Sunday to donate toward St. Jude's and have it reflected on your 2025 giving statement. You may give online until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**St. Jude's Episcopal Church**

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[www.stjudesfenton.com](http://www.stjudesfenton.com)