



SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2025, 10:30 A.M.
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE *Partita on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"* Michael Burkhart

THE OPENING HYMN 82 *Of the Father's love begotten*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355) *All stand.*

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

GLORIA

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
God the Fa-ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 31:7-14

A Reading from Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.’ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,” says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

²The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

³Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁶They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

⁷Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

⁸Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

⁹For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹⁰For the Lord God is both sun and shield; *

he will give grace and glory;

¹¹No good thing will the Lord withhold *

from those who walk with integrity.

¹²O Lord of hosts, *

happy are they who put their trust in you!

THE EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 1:3-6, 15-19A

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 84 *Love came down at Christmas*

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-15, 19-23

Remain standing.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston

All sit.

The Celebrant and people say together

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.

Celebrant In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work,
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation,
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Glenda and Brian our Bishops, Duncan
 and Mark our priests, for Stewart our seminarian, and for all bishops and
 other ministers.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially
 _____.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal
 kingdom, especially those for whom the altar flowers have been given:_____

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The people stand to greet one another.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The celebrant will say an offertory sentence. The people sit.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten

All stand to sing the offertory verse when the offertory is brought up to the altar.

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (PRAYER B, (BCP p. 367)

All stand.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



All kneel as able.

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you
have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your
people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the
Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to
be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the
world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to
stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out
of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever, **AMEN.**

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

Celebrant and 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

The Celebrant presents the holy gifts to the congregation saying

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

The priest receives the Sacrament, and then serves the people with these words:

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

You are very welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian church. Those who wish not to receive Holy Communion may come to the altar rail, fold their arms across their chests, and receive a blessing from the priest.

Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor. Communicants may receive the wine by intinction or by drinking directly from the cup.

THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

All kneel as able.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

**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 BLESSING

Go now, and bear witness to the light so others might believe.
Since you are chosen in Christ,
live before him in love, holy and blameless.
Live with hope in Christ, for the praise of his glory.

And may God fill the earth with peace;
May Christ give you grace upon grace from his fullness;
And may the Holy Spirit, the pledge of your inheritance,
lead you on straight paths where you will not stumble.

THE CLOSING HYMN 117 *Brightest and best of the stars of the morning*

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

THE POSTLUDE *Toccata on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"* Michael Burkhart

TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston, *Rector*

The Reverend Mark E. Waldo, Jr., *Associate Rector*

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministries: J.R. Marshall

Organist: Jim Conely

Altar Guild: Josie Eskridge, Libby Beck

Lector and Intercessor: Nick Prillaman, Debbie Schremser

Eucharistic Ministers: Mark Chappell, Morgan Chappell, Mary Hughes

Ushers/Greeters: Allison Prillaman, Melissa Carter, Anne Hamner, Ashley Roseboro

Flower Guild: Mary Helen Mahan, Fay Worrilow

Flower Delivery Team: George Mathews, Stanley Marks

Videographer: Sam Collier

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Jonathan Mills Thornton, Kate Hails Thornton, Jonathon Mills Thornton, Jr., Priscilla Marks Thornton, Charles Marks Thornton, Ruth Roper Hutchinson, Laura Thornton Hutchinson, H. Hamilton Hutchinson, M.D., Katherine Thornton Seawell, Henry Ravesies Seawell, Leonard Henderson Seawell, IV, Ruth Hutchinson Thomas, Albert Hudson Thompson

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:

Rick Durden, Marla Foster, Dave Funk, Carolyn Fillmore, Emily Crump Johannes, Carma Marks, Richard McCrory, Pat McDonald, Eddie McDowell, Martha Collier Mosely, Cameron Napier, Bud Nason, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Hawthorne Ramsey, Debbie Steindorff, Barbara Wallace, Florence Young

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, Willie "Bill" Carden, John Ferguson, Bob Geddie, Roger Holliday, Stephanie Holmes, Josie Lee, Charles Lewis, Leslie Little, Margaret Moore, Karen Pacheco, Pat Patterson, Ron Skoneki, Johnny Smith, Madera Spenser, Chandler Taylor, Connie Thomas, Katherine Weidner, Frank Winkler, Sharon Carney Wright

*Please notify us when you are sick or hospitalized so that we might provide pastoral care.
The prayer list will be updated monthly, please notify us if names need to remain longer.*

Rector's Forum: Welcome Course

Beginning Sunday, January 11, at 9:15 a.m. in the Library, join Duncan for an 8-week Welcome Course. This is an engaging program of presentations and discussions about the Christian faith and Episcopal tradition. Email Duncan@stjohnsmontgomery.org to register.

2025 Pledges/2026 Pledge Cards

Please remember your pledges are due by Dec. 31. If you have questions about your outstanding balance, email constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org. Please also remember to fill out your 2026 pledge card. If you do not have one, they are available in the narthex.

Annual Parish Meeting & Vestry Elections are scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 18, 2025 at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall. If you are a ministry leader, please be sure and have your 2024 report completed and sent to emily@stjohnsmontgomery.org no later than Friday, Jan. 9.

Feast of Lights

The St. John's Youth will be hosting a Feast of Lights service this evening, January 4 at 5 p.m. The Episcopal Feast of Lights is the name for the Christian Holy Day of Epiphany. The day commemorates the manifestation of Christ to the world. Contact jr@stjohnsmontgomery.org for more info.

Heavenly Hosts

Adults covered dish supper Tuesday, Jan. 13, 6-8 p.m. at the home of Martha Tyson. Please bring your favorite covered dish and join us. Soft drinks will be provided by the church, but you are welcome to bring additional beverages. Are you interested in hosting? Opportunities are open for March 10 and April 14. Please contact Anne Hamner at 334-324-8291.

The Right Reverend Glenda S. Curry, PhD, Bishop of Alabama
The Right Reverend Brian N. Prior, Assisting Bishop

St. John's Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Duncan H. Johnston, DMin, Rector
The Reverend Mark E. Waldo, Jr. Associate Rector
Joel Gregory, Organist & Choirmaster
Sarah Collier, Director of Children's Christian Formation
J.R. Marshall, Director of Youth Ministries
Emily Howard, Director of Communications
Constance Rodgers, Assistant to the Rector
Myron Smoke, Maintenance Superintendent

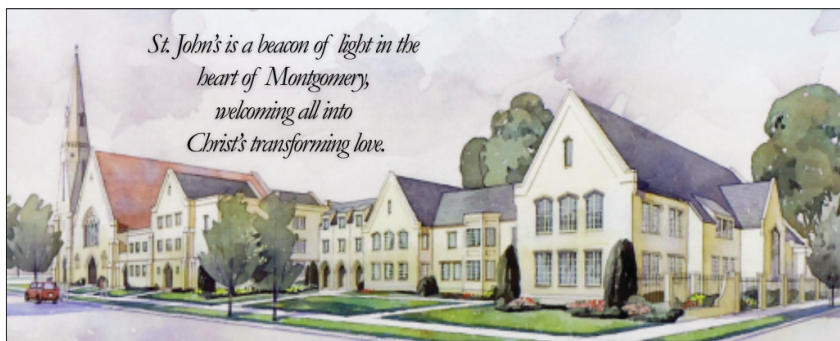
Vestry and Officers

Keith Miller, Senior Warden
Bill Eskridge, Junior Warden
Richard Bradford, Treasurer

Class of 2025: Melissa Carter, Mark Chappell, Anne Hamner,
Keith Miller, Allison Prillaman

Class of 2026: Elizabeth Lawlor, Liam McMullan, Mary Martin Mitchell,
Ashley Roseboro, Cole Wise

Class of 2027: Richard Anderson, Jon Dailey, Bill Johnson,
Jim Marshall III, Florence Tyson, Karen Westhauser



*St. John's is a beacon of light in the
heart of Montgomery,
welcoming all into
Christ's transforming love.*

We're glad you are at St. John's today.

Whether you are visiting for the first time or attending regularly,
you are a part of the St. John's family.

Visitor Card



Visitors, please use this QR code to provide us with some
information about you and your family so that we can
better serve you.

Visit our website to see service times, news from
the parish, upcoming events,
mission opportunities and more.

stjohnsmontgomery.org



Online Giving



If you wish to make a gift to St. John's,
our online giving portal makes it easier than ever.

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