

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026, 10:30 A.M.
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE PRELUDE

THE OPENING HYMN 57 LO! *He comes, with clouds descending*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION *All stand.*

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

During the singing of the Song of Praise, the Advent wreath candles will be lit by the Wood Family.

Welcome to St. John's, a Beacon in the Heart of Montgomery
We're glad you're here. Whether St. John's has been your church home for years or you are joining us for the first time, you are welcome. We invite you to worship, connect, and discover with us the transforming love of Christ.

PRAISE HYMN 56 *O come, o come, Emmanuel,* verses 1 & 2

O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel.
O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, o Israel.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

A Reading from Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Sung by the choir.*

[1]Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
[2]In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
[3]Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
[4]O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
[5]You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
[6]You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
[7]Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
[16]Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
[17]And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
[18]Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from Go dour Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN 54 *Savior of the nations, come!*

THE GOSPEL: MARK 13:24-37 *All stand.*

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

THE SERMON The Rev Dr. Duncan Johnston *All sit.*

THE NICENE CREED *All stand.*

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: FORM IV *All kneel as able.*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially, _____, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially, ___that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect.

The Celebrant then says
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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

The Peace *All stand.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION *All sit.*

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.

The Offertory

**If you wish to give online, please use the QR code on the back page of the bulletin.*
All stand to sing the Offertory verse as the offering is brought 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.

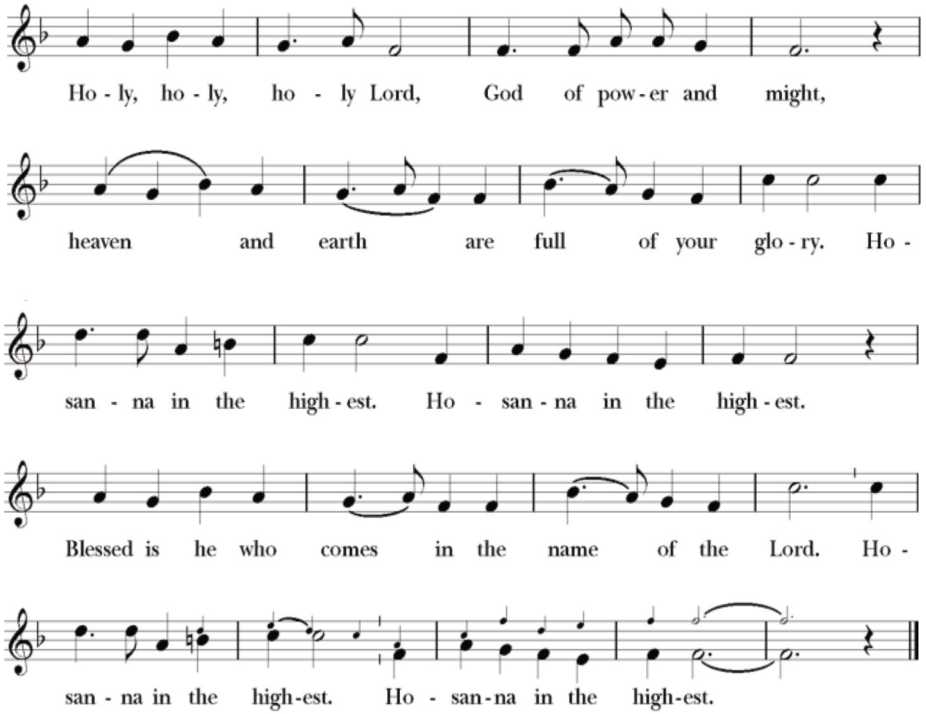
The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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 him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds
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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

The Sanctus



The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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.**

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

People and Celebrant

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 Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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 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 *All kneel as able.*

After communion, the Celebrant says
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 walk in the light of the Lord.
Stay alert for the Lord is near.
Put on the armour of light
and live openly and honourably.
Pray for peace for all God's people.
And may God clothe you in the light of Christ;
May Christ Jesus teach you his ways;
And may the Holy Spirit keep you alert and prepared
for the coming day of the Lord. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn 73 *The King shall come when morning dawns* *All stand.*

The Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Rev. Duncan Johnston, DMin., *Rector*
The Rev. Mark E. Waldo, Jr., *Associate Rector*
Organist: Wallace Hornady
Acolytes: Thomas Arrington, Maggie Mantooth, McKinney Wise
Altar Guild: James Rinehart
Lector and Intercessor: Ashley Hamlett, Tracy Klinestiver
Eucharistic Ministers: Robbie Everitt, Reg McLane, Kat Dailey
Ushers/Greeters: Elizabeth Lawlor, Ken Kline, Karen Westhauser, Cole Wise
Flower Guild: Betsy Cannon, Mary Martin Mitchell
Flower Delivery Team: Tracey Campbell
Videographer: Jim Cannon

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Emmie Taber Danzinger, John Kennedy Danziger, Sr., Audrey Portugill Danziger, John Kennedy Danziger, Jr., Rufus Middleton King, Rebecca Danzinger Snell, Hamner Garland Freeman, Jr., Cameron Brame Freeman, Hamner Garland Freeman III, John Hawkins Napier III, Enid Portugill, Cyril Portugill

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Rosa Davis, Carolyn Fillmore, Marla Foster, Tom Horton, Emily Crump Johannes, Phillip Kinney, Carma Marks, Amy Marshall, Richard McCrory, Pat McDonald, Eddie McDowell, Cameron Napier, Eddie Patillo, Elizabeth Potter, Shirley Price, Jeanie Rue, Carrie Shaw, Debbie Steindorff, Bill Stewart, Julia Thompson, Barbara & Stuart Wallace, Florence Young

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Courtney Cobb, Lizzy Dickens, John Ferguson, Mark Grantham, Roger Holliday, Stephanie Holmes, Jane Lampley, Josie Lee, Charles Lewis, Nicole Lusk, Matthew Milner, Margaret Moore, Lyl Parker, Ron Skoneki, Alice Smith, Laura Smith, Maude Van Dis, Frank Winkler, Sharon Carney Wright

Pastoral Care Team for December: Betsy Cannon, Michelle Shaw, Josie Eskridge, Mary-Nelms Parsons, Renee Taylor

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Group Begins Sunday, November 29 Join us at 6 p.m. this Sunday, November 29, as Marney Garzon welcomes us back to her home for this year's Advent group. Together we'll reflect on the theme "Cultivating Healing and Wholeness in Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind."
Marney's home is at 2453 E. Cloverdale Park, Montgomery, AL 36106. Please park and enter at the back of the house. Get directions
The Advent devotional booklet is available as a PDF, and printed copies are available at the church desk. All are welcome!

Angel Tree Ministry Join a wonderful St. John's tradition by adopting a family in need for the holiday season! You can take on a family by yourself or pair up with another family to share the giving. How to Participate:

1. Pick an Envelope: Choose a family envelope from the Christmas tree to keep. Inside, you'll find a letter and wish list for your adopted family.

2. Sign Up: Write your family's name on the sign-up sheet next to the family you chose.

3. Deliver Gifts: Please bring all gifts to the church by December 14 so Maria can deliver them in time for Christmas.

Thank you for helping make this season brighter for families in our community!

Advent Wreath Making Today is Advent Wreath Making Day! All materials will be provided, we will have a light lunch and get busy creating our advent wreaths and enjoying some fellowship in the Parish Hall.

Family Dinner December 2 at 6 p.m. Beginning in November, join us on the first Wednesday of each month for a potluck and fellowship in the Parish Hall. No programming, no frills—just community and a meal together. Bring a dish to share, bring the kids, and invite your neighbors. There's room for everyone at the table! Hope to see you there!

ECW Christmas Luncheon The ECW Christmas Luncheon will be Sunday, December 6 from 12-2 p.m. Come join us as we celebrate the joy of the season! Please RSVP to Christine Kline, firefamily1991@gmail.com

Youth Trip to Sewanee Join EYC for an overnight trip to Sewanee for Lessons & Carols! We'll leave early Saturday, December 5, and return Sunday, December 6. All St. John's youth in grades 7–12 and their friends are welcome for this Advent weekend of worship and fellowship. Let J.R. know if you're able to come! Marney's home is at 2453 E. Cloverdale Park, Montgomery, AL 36106. Please park and enter at the back of the house. The Advent devotional booklet is available as a PDF, and printed copies are available at the church desk. All are welcome!

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The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

The Right Rev. Richard T. Lawson, III, *Bishop*

St. John's Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Duncan H. Johnston, DMin, *Rector*
The Rev. Mark E. Waldo, Jr. *Associate Rector*
J.R. Marshall, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Maria Pacheco, *Director of Children's Christian Formation*
Emily Howard, *Lay Associate for Adult Formation*
Constance Rodgers, *Assistant to the Rector*
Myron Smoke, *Maintenance Superintendent*

Vestry and Officers

Bill Eskridge, *Senior Warden*
Florence Tyson, *Junior Warden*
Richard Bradford, *Treasurer*

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, Karen Westhauser

Class of 2028: Libby Beck, Tracey Campbell, Sommerville Hill, Ken Kline, Mary-Nelms Parsons, Nick Prillaman

experience
Advent at St. John's

ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

Choose an angel from the tree, then purchase, wrap, and deliver a gift for a child in foster care!





ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Nov. 29 after 10:30 service

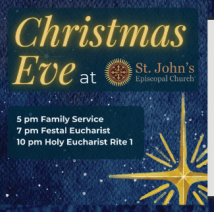
All materials will be provided, we will have a light lunch and get busy creating our advent wreaths and enjoying some fellowship in the Parish Hall.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

Dec. 20 at 9:45 a.m.

Come experience the pure JOY of the St. John's children's Christmas Pageant!





CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24 at 5, 7, 10 p.m.

Whether you want to bring the whole family or enjoy a quiet Holy Eucharist, there is a service to fit every need.

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25 at 10 a.m.

Come sing carols and Celebrate Christ's birth with your St. John's family.





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.

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stjohnsmontgomery.org

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

Online Giving

If you wish to make a gift to St. John's, our online giving portal makes it easier than ever. Your generosity supports our ministries in Montgomery and beyond.

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