



St. John's Episcopal Church

December 1, 2024, 10:30 a.m.
The First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Our Guests

*We are so glad you have chosen to worship at St. John's today.
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.
Children's activity bags are available in the back of the church.*

HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

THE PRELUDE

*Adagio (Trio in E-flat)
Savior of the Nations, Come*

JS Bach
JS Bach

THE OPENING HYMN 59 *Hark! A Thrilling voice is sounding*

THE WORD OF GOD

THE SALUTATION

Celebrant
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

TRISAGION

(Organ)



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and
Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have
mer - cy on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, have mer - cy on us.
Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy on us.

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 LESSONS

All sit.

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 33:14-16

A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE: PSALM 25:1-9

Sung by the choir.

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *

let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

²Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁵Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁷Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

⁹All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

THE EPISTLE: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 73 *The King shall come when morning dawns*

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

All stand.

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

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Priest The Gospel of our Lord.

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

SERMON The Rev Dr Duncan Johnston

All sit.

THE NICENE CREED

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.

(Silence) 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.

We pray especially for _____. *(Silence)*

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.

(Silence) 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. *Silence.*

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. *Silence.* 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. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Priest 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 OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* John Stainer

At the end of the anthem, all stand for the doxology and sing:

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 HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

All stand.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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

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

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.**

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

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.

Communion is offered in both kinds at the communion rail or station on the floor.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All kneel as they are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

All kneel.

The Celebrant blesses the people

Go now and be alert at all times.

Be on your guard so that you will not be caught up in the trivia and anxiety of the world.

And may God make you increase in love for one another;

May Christ Jesus teach you how to live in God's ways;

and may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts in holiness,

as you ready yourselves for the coming of the Lord. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 57 *Lo! He comes, with clouds descending*

THE DISMISSAL

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Sleepers Wake! A Voice Astounds Us

Paul Manz

TODAY'S SERVERS

Clergy: The Reverend Duncan Johnston, DMin

Director of Children's Formation: Sarah Collier

Director of Youth Ministry: Connie Tapia

Acolytes: Bobby Bradford, W.E. Clark, Lawton McCollum,
Thomas Arrington

Altar Guild: Josie Eskridge, Libby Beck

Lectors and Intercessors: Ashley Hamlett, Debbie Schremser

Eucharistic Ministers: Cam Armstrong, Betsy Cannon, Kat Dailey,
William Haynes

Ushers/Greeters: Keith Miller, Jim Bennett, Anne Hamner,
Elizabeth Lawlor

Flower Guild: Sarah Spratling, Jane Barganier

Flower Delivery Team: Jeanette Lynn, George Mathews, Stanley Marks

Videographer: Sam Collier

Instrumentalists: Sunny Xu, *cello*; David Simpson, *bassoon*

Today's Advent Candle is lit by the Prillaman Family

Altar Flowers are given in memory of: Emmie Taber Danziger,
John Kennedy Danziger, Sr., Audrey Portugill Danziger,
John Kennedy Danziger, Jr., Rufus Middleton King,
Rebecca Danziger 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:

Dick Arrington, Laura Brendle, Rick Durden, Dave Funk,
Mac Gipson, Emily Crump Johannes, Seibels Marshall, Carma Marks,
Stanley Marks, Richard McCrory, Frazer McCurdy, Eddie McDowell,
Martha Collier Mosely, Cam Napier, Bud Nason, Elizabeth Potter,
Shirley Price, Barbara Wallace, Barbara Wells

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Emma Allshouse,
Gail Alsobrook, Mac Burton, Gray Howard, Seeley Lewis, Karen
Pacheco, Pam Slate, Ron Skoneki, Madera Spencer, Chandler Taylor,
Connie Thomas, Frank Winkler, Jennifer WorriLOW,
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.*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Bazaar a success! Your time and effort in cooking, crafting, and donating treasures was truly invaluable. This tradition wouldn't be possible without the dedication and generosity of our parish members. We are deeply grateful for all that you do to benefit our community.

Advent Wreath Making

Today after the 10:30 service, everyone is invited to come to the Parish Hall and collect materials to make their own Advent Wreath! All supplies will be provided, including an abundance of greenery clippings to make your wreath beautiful. Please note that there will be no luncheon this year.

Rector's Forum, "Spiritual Practices for Anxious Times"

In times of stress, it is helpful to know and use spiritual practices to calm the mind and spirit. Join Duncan as he shares about practices like meditation, labyrinths, fasting, and more. Through Dec. 15 at 9:15 in the Library.

Living Well Through Advent

A group will meet on Sunday events during Advent (location TBD) to discuss the devotional "Practicing Peace with All Your Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength." Please contact Carrie Shaw at gracegra@gmail.com for more information.

Supplies for Hurricane Relief

St. John's is collecting supplies for the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama to send to those affected by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina, Georgia, and parts of Florida. Bring supplies to the St. John's office from 9-4 Monday-Thursday or on Sunday morning. Supplies needed include non-perishable food (ready to eat canned food, peanut butter), diapers, baby wipes, bleach, Lysol, soap, and new wool blankets.

Welcome to our visitors!

We are so glad you decided to visit with us today. Please use this QR code to provide us with some information about you and your family so that we can better serve you.

Visitor Card





Everyone is welcome to adopt a family in need this Christmas season. The Angel Tree information will be set up in the Parish Hall beginning Sunday, November 24. When signing up, please take a family from the tree and list your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet. **All items need to be delivered to Hands On River Region by December 12.**

Email sarah@stjohnsmontgomery.org with questions.

La Posada is translated to mean "The Inn." It is an old Spanish custom that celebrates Mary and Joseph seeking shelter in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. In opening your hearts to Mary and

Joseph and symbolically opening your home to the homeless of the world, our prayer for you and your family is that this experience will enrich your preparation for the coming of Christ. The Holy Family (tall plastic figures) will begin their journey on the first Sunday of Advent,

December 1, at the conclusion of the Advent Wreath Making Luncheon (in the Parish Hall). They will spend one night with each family, and need to be transported to the next family each day before dark. They will return to church on Christmas Eve during the Children's 5 p.m. service.

