



# St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 10.30am

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Welcome to Our Guests

*We are glad you have chosen to worship at St. John's today. You are welcome to receive Holy Communion if you have been baptized in any Christian Church. If you do not want to receive Holy Communion come to the altar rail, fold your arms across your chest, and receive a blessing from the priest. Children's activity bags are available in the back of the church.*

### HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

---

**Opening Voluntaries** *Rejoice, O My Soul* Sigfried Karg-Elert  
*Fughetta on the Magnificat* Johann Pachelbel  
*Lo! How A Rose E'er Blooming* Johannes Brahms

**Opening Hymn 56** *O come, o come, Emmanuel*

### The Word of God

*p.355*

*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.**

### 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.

*Copyright 2001 Richard Webster  
Advent Press  
Used with permission.*

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Liturgy of the Word

*All sit.*

#### THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 7:10-16

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18**

*Sung by a soloist.*

- 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: ROMANS 1:1-7**

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be

Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn 81** *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming* *All stand.*

**THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25** *All stand*

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

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Priest* The Gospel of our 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.

**Prayers of the People (Form V)** *All kneel as able.* p.389

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Glenda and Brian our Bishops and Duncan and Deonna our priests, and for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, especially \_\_\_\_\_, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in positions of public trust, especially Joseph our President, Kay our Governor, and Steven our Mayor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially \_\_\_\_\_; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, especially, \_\_\_\_\_; and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of Saint John and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

**To you, O Lord our God.**

*The Celebrant then adds a concluding Collect.*

## **The Confession**

*p. 360*

*Minister* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister 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 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.*

Anthem *Ave Maria* Jacob Arcadelt

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. You are blessed among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

*~ sung in Latin.*

*All stand and sing the Doxology 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)**

*All stand. p.361*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.


*People* **We lift them up unto 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, that through Christ the light of your presence has been restored and we have been called into the obedience of faith that we might live by the hope conceived in us by the Holy Spirit. 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:

## The Sanctus (S124)



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.

*All kneel as they are able*

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, with Saint John and 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*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**

*The celebrant breaks the bread and then follows*

*Antiphon*  
*Cantor; then All*



Bles - sed are those who are called to the Sup - per of the Lamb.

*Cantor* Praise the Lord, all you nations; laud him, all you peoples. For his loving kindness toward us is great, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. [Congregation repeats Antiphon]

*Celebrant* 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. Communicants may receive the wine by intinction or by drinking directly from the cup.*

## Post-Communion Prayer

*All kneel as they are able. p. 366*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**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.**

## Blessing

*All stand.*

*The Celebrant blesses the people.*

Go now and live by the hope conceived within you. Refuse evil and choose good. Call on the name of the Lord and Walk with God in faithful obedience.

And may God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, be with you, save you from your sins, and restore to you the light of God's presence. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Closing Hymn 66** *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

## Sending Out

*Minister* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'*

Andrew Carter

## TODAY'S SERVERS

**Acolytes:** Brett Westhauser, Allie Fitzpatrick, James Marshall, Robert Marshall, Parker Mantooth, Molly Selman

**Lector and Intercessor:** Virginia Banister, Scott Mitchell

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Rich Anderson, March Chappell, Morgan Chappell, Scott Mitchell

**Ushers/Greeters:** William Haynes, Kathleen Bradford, Josie Eskridge, Dustin Holmes

**Altar Guild:** Melissa Carter

**Flower Guild:** Caroline Lawson, Lura McLemore

**Flower Delivery Team:** Melissa Carter, Will Gunter, Doris Ball

**Videographer:** Anne Tippet

**Instrumentalists:** Robby Gibson, *guitar*; Robert Scott, *flute*; David Simpson, *bassoon*.

**Altar Flowers given in memory of:** Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hawthorne, Carroll R. Thornton, Charles Leon Ruth III and Frances Lindsey Ruth, Charles Leon Ruth II and Dorothy Minderhout Ruth

**Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners:** Jim Bennett, Bill & Lida Bowman, Rod Frazer, Karen Jarrell, Leslie Little, Ken Mahan, Christopher Marshall, Eddie McDowell, Marilyn Pickett, Shirley Price, Evelyn Sherbert, Tommy Tyson, Larry Worriow.

**Prayers are also requested for these friends:** Jodelle Oakley, Rowan Osborne, Johnathan Pace, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Robert Proctor, Kathleen Wilkowske.

*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, Michelle Shaw, Josie Eskridge, Mary-Nelms Parsons, Renee Taylor, Laura Knapp

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2023 Pledge:** Please remember to fill out your 2023 pledge card. If you do not have one, you may ask a vestry member, or call or email the office. We are 82% of the way there. We have received \$1,367,116.00 and have \$245485.00 outstanding.

**Advent Reflection Group:** The advent reflection group continues to meet on Sundays at 6:00 at the home of Polly Williamson (1248 Westmoreland Ave.). If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact Carrie Shaw (gracygray@gmail.com)

**Online Advent Book Study:** Join Deonna online Tuesday night for the final 7pm-8pm during Advent for a book study on the 4th century ancient text *On the Incarnation*, by St. Athanasius.

**Club 56 Christmas Party:** Sunday, Dec. 18th 5-7:30 pm, in the Parrish Hall.. We will decorate cookies, watch *The Grinch* and play Dirty Santa-gag gift edition (\$20 limit). Pizza and popcorn provided.

**EYC Christmas Party:** Sunday, Dec. 18th We will watch a Christmas movie and play Dirty Santa-with gag gifts (\$15 limit). Dinner provided.

**Christmas Organ Concert:** Thursday, Dec 22, 7pm. Joel Gregory will be performing a selection of Christmas music. It will be a beautiful lead into the Christmas weekend.

**Christmas Eve Services: Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**4:30 PM-** Carillon Concert-Joel will be playing a selection of Christmas songs on the bells as a prelude to the 5pm service.

**5:00 PM-** Children's Service- This service is designed for Children, but all are welcome. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Salvation Army. *No childcare available.*

**7:00 PM-** Holy Eucharist Rite II. *No Childcare available.*

**10:00 PM-** Holy Eucharist Rite I, with chanting and incense.. *No childcare available.*

**Christmas Day Service:** Sunday Dec. 25, 10:00 am. *No Childcare available*