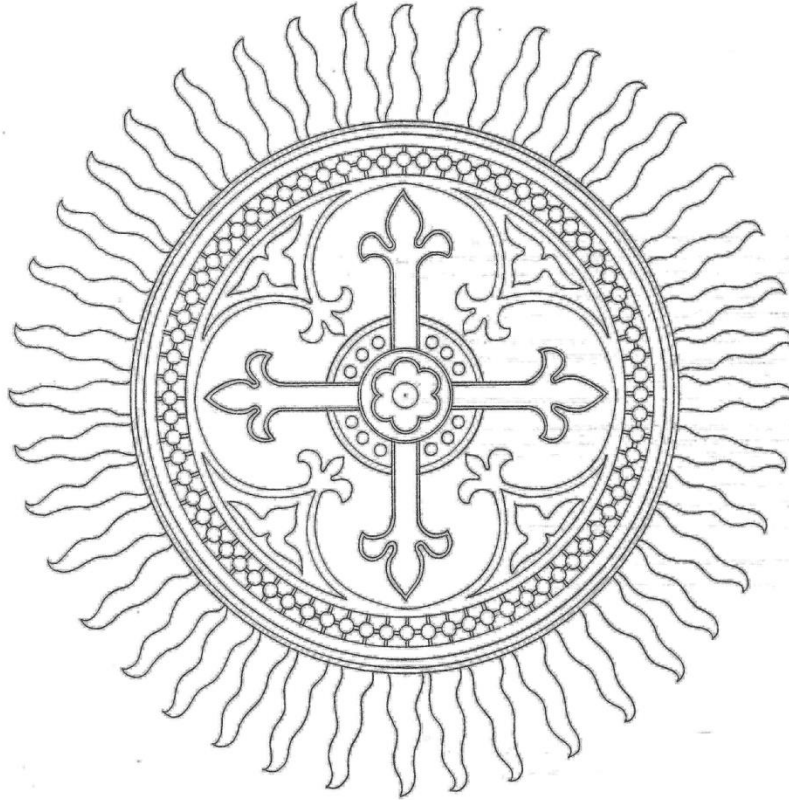


St. John's Episcopal Church

Montgomery, Alabama



Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols December 20th, 2020 10.30am

A Note to Guests and Newcomers to the Episcopal Church

Welcome! We are glad you have chosen to worship at St. John's today.

For your convenience, we offer Nursery Care for children 3 years old and younger. The nursery is located through doors on the front right of the church, and at the end of the hall on your right. Also, children's activity bags are available in the narthex and in the main hallway.

Clergy

The Rev. John P. Leach, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Deonna D. Neal, Priest Associate

Hymns and carols in today's service will be sung by vocalists.

Prelude *Sleepers Wake! A Voice Astounds Us* Johann Ludwig Krebs

The Congregation stands at the entrance of the clergy.

Welcome and Announcements

MATIN RESPONSORY

Officiant: I look from afar:

People: And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Officiant: Go ye out to meet him and say:

People: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Officiant: High and low, rich and poor, one with another,

People: Go ye out to meet him and say:

Officiant: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,

People: Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Officiant: Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come:

People: To reign over thy people Israel.

Officiant: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

People: I look from afar:

Officiant: And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

People: Go ye out to meet him and say:

Officiant: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Plainsong, 15th Century

O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace. 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!

(Lighting of the Advent Candles)

The congregation kneels as they are able.

A Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this *city*.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

Officiant 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

Voluntary *Lo! How A Rose E'er Blooming*

The LESSONS

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40: 1-8 (*Stewart Miller, EYC and Acolyte Captain*)

The prophet proclaims the good news to a people in exile.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Anthem *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

John Ferguson

*"Comfort, comfort ye my people: Tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them.
Tell them that their war is over. God will reign in peace forever.*

*For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Calling us to true repentance since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him!*

*Straight shall be what long was crooked and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble as befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.*

SECOND LESSON: Jeremiah 23: 5-6 (*Ellen Habermacher, Carver Backpack Program*)

The Lord promises to send his people a righteous King.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Anthem *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Jeffrey Rickard

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus born to set thy people free
From our sins and fears release us; let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

THIRD LESSON: Zechariah 9: 9-10 (*Wyatt Wells, Youth Confirmation Teacher*)

The Lord promises that the King will come to Israel in peace.

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ He^{will} cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

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

Hymn *Savior of the Nations, Come* Germany, 16th century

*Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, both heaven and earth that the Lord chose such a birth.*

*Wondrous birth, O wondrous child of the Virgin undefiled,
Mighty God and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!*

Chorale Prelude *Savior of the Nations, Come* Johann Pachelbel

*Thus on earth the Word appears, gracing his created spheres;
Hence to death and hell descends, then the heavenly throne ascends.*

*Come, O Father's saving Son, who o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be; grant that we it's glories see.*

Chorale Prelude *Savior of the Nations, Come* Johann Sebastian Bach

FOURTH LESSON: Haggai 2: 6-9 (*Melissa Carter, Altar Guild and Archives*)

The Prophet foretells the advent of the desire of all nations.

⁶For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; ⁷and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. ⁸The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. ⁹The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

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

Spiritual *My Lord, What A Morning*

American Spiritual

My Lord, what a morning when the stars begin to fall!

You'll hear the trumpet sound to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand when the stars begin to fall. You'll hear the sinner mourn to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand when the stars begin to fall. You'll hear the Christian shout to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand when the stars begin to fall.

Voluntary *My Lord, What a Morning*

Raymond Haan

FIFTH LESSON Isaiah 35: 1-6 (*Charlie Harris, Chair, Rector Search and Outreach Committees*)

The Prophet foretells the glory of the kingdom of God.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Carol *Lo! How A Rose E'er Blooming* Michael Praetorius

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.*

Voluntary *Lo! How A Rose E'er Blooming* Jan Sandström

Carol *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* Basque Carol

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored Lady!' Gloria!*

*'For known a blessed mother thou shalt be; All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold. Most highly favored Lady!' Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. 'To me be as it pleaseth God!' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.' Most highly favored Lady! Gloria!*

*Of her Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn;
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say 'Most highly favored Lady!' Gloria!*

SIXTH LESSON Luke 1: 26-35, 38 (Virginia Banister, ECW and Vestry)

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. [...]"³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Anthem *Ave Maria*

adapted from Johann Sebastian Bach

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

~sung in Latin.

Voluntary *Noël: Joseph Is Well Married*

Claude Balbastre

The congregation stands.

SEVENTH LESSON: Mark 1: 1-15 (*Jimmy McLemore, Senior Warden*)

Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” **12** And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. **13** He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. **14** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news^[1] of God, **15** and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Silence will kept for a moment.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The congregation will be seated.

Voluntary *There's A Voice In the Wilderness Crying* adapted from Craig Phillips

The congregation stands.

The Vesper Responsory

Officiant Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed:

People **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you,**

Officiant Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.

People **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you,**

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

People **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

Officiant We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord.

People **In the midst of your temple.**

Officiant Let us pray.

The congregation kneels as they are able.

Concluding Collect

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly expectation of your coming. Grant that we, who with joy receive your only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he will come to be our Judge, your Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen**

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Please stand as the clergy depart.

Hymn Tune *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTTGART

Postlude *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Johann Sebastian Bach

REVISED Christmas Schedule 2020

December 24

12:00pm Carillon Concert
4:30pm Carillon Concert
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II
7:00 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II Instrumentalists, Organ
*10:00 pm Holy Eucharist Rite I Instrumentalists, Organ

December 25

*11:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II Outside in the labyrinth, wear warm clothes

December 27

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

***Revised service time.** The children's Christmas pageant will be pre-recorded and available on the St. John's FaceBook page on Christmas Eve

Announcements

New Christmas Service Schedule: Please review the schedule above for some revised service times and an outdoor Christmas day service.

Altar Flowers for Christmas: Would you like to donate toward the altar flowers for the Christmas services? You may scan the QR code or mail in a check along with the names you would like to honor/memorialize to St. John's, 113 Madison Ave, Montgomery, AL 36104



Christmas Eve Toys: Help us make this Christmas more magical for a child in need! We invite you to bring an "unwrapped toy" to the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service! All toys will be delivered to the Salvation Army!

COVID Protocol in St. John's: Please remember to follow these guidelines when you are at St. John's (and elsewhere):

1. Wear a mask
2. Keep a distance of at least 6 feet between you and fellow parishioners
3. Please wash your hands regularly.

Today's Servers

Advent Wreath Lighters: The Clark family

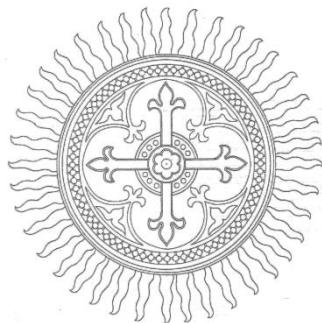
Greeters/Ushers: Jimmy McLemore, Virginia Banister, Todd Westhauser, Emily Wise

Musicians: Katie Marcelino & Celia Huff-Porea, *sopranos*; Lauren Simpson, *mezzo-soprano*; Shane Nishibun, *tenor*; Robert Scott, *flute*; Barbara Shanks, *oboe*; Robby Gibson, *guitar*.

Joy and Concern

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Bonner Engelhardt, Karen Jarrell, Sarah Leach, Caroline Majors, Christopher Marshall, Joe McGough, Marilyn Pickett, Ava Grace Schremser, Sarah Stone, George Wakefield.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Betsy Arnold, Margaret Carlson, Pee Wee Kohn, Diane Kuehndorf, Charlie Leisy, Mike Lockett, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Ernie Reddick, Debbie Steindorf, Jeff Webb, Mark Wimble



St. John's Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

The Right Reverend John McKee Sloan, *Bishop of Alabama*

The Right Reverend Dr. Glenda S. Curry, *Bishop Coadjutor*

The Reverend John P. Leach, *Rector*

The Reverend Dr. Deonna D. Neal, *Priest Associate*

Joel Gregory, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Sarah Collier, *Director of Children's Christian Formation*

Joleen George, *Director of Youth Ministries and Parish Communications*

Heather Herring, *Financial Administrator*

Anne Tippet, *Assistant to the Rector*

Mike Jarrell, *Maintenance Superintendent*

Myron Smoke, *Maintenance Staff*

Judson George, *Maintenance Staff*

Vestry and Officers

Jimmy McLemore, *Senior Warden*

Radney Ramsey, *Junior Warden*

Richard Bradford, *Treasurer*

Phillip Brown, *Assistant Treasurer*

Todd Westhauser, Stephanie Norrell, Mike Jenkins,

Kat Dailey, Virginia Banister, Richard Bradford,

Emily Wise, Nick Prillaman, Mary Nelms Parsons,

Katie Keller, Will Gunter, John Carter,

Will Hill Tankersley, Dudley Perry, Scott Mitchell,

JR Marshall, Cissy Johnson, Brice Johnston, Betsy Cannon