

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & PARISH DAY SCHOOL

First Sunday of Advent

SUN., NOV. 29, 2026 • 10:00 A.M.
ONE WORSHIP

Be Known, Be Loved, Belong at St. John's, where God already knows you and loves you.

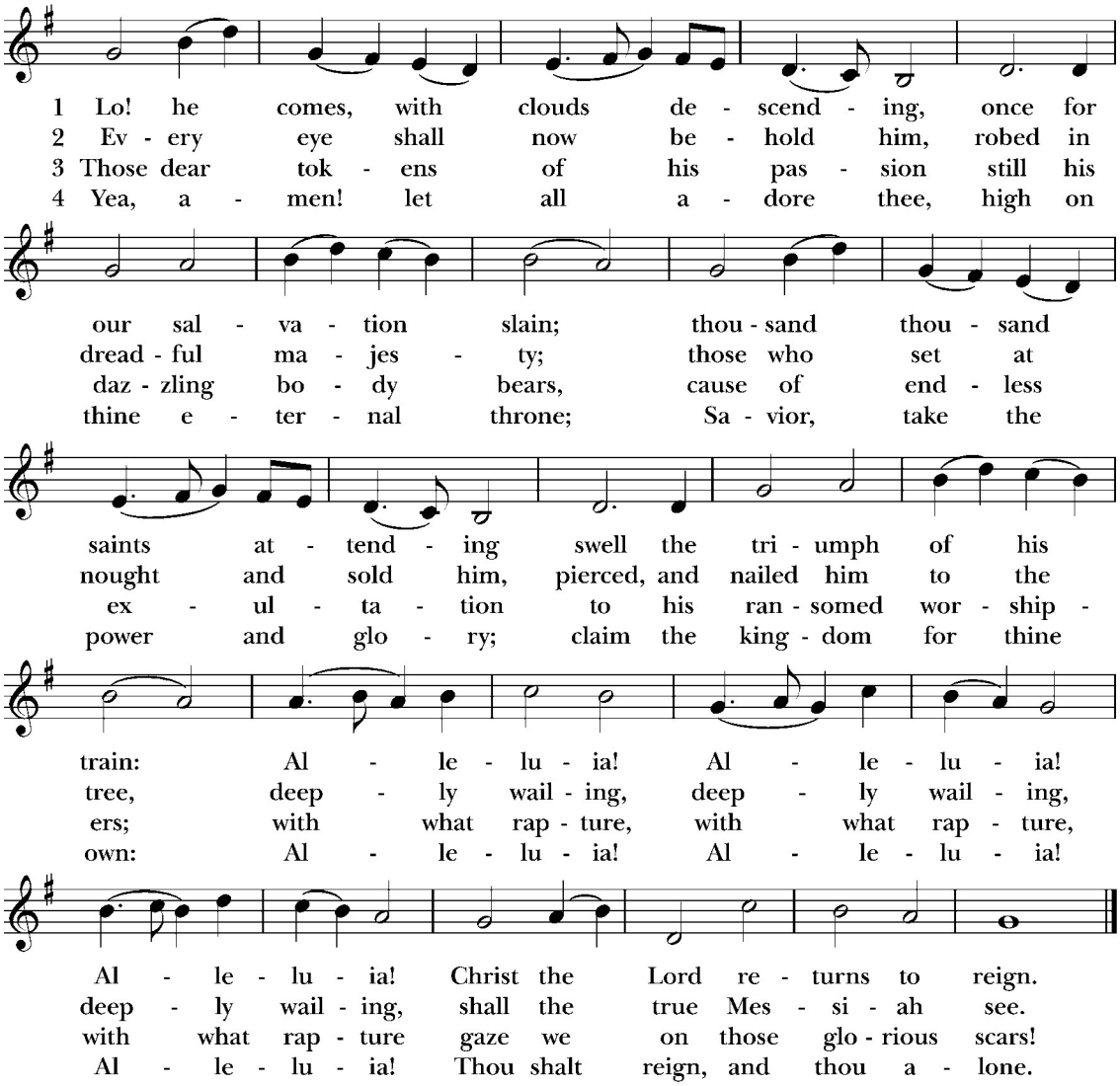
THE WORD OF THE LORD

During the service, the congregation reads the parts in bold.
Please note that this is our livestream service and you may be visible on camera.

PRELUDE *Ad Te Levavi*

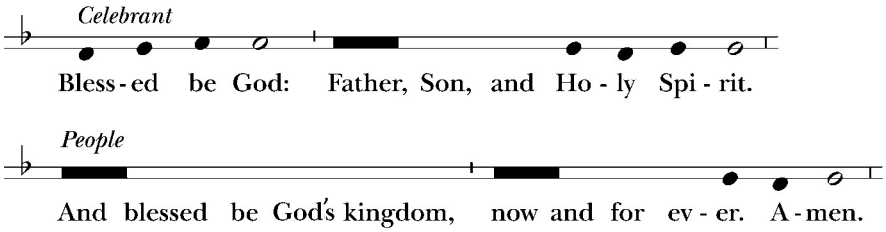
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:1-3)

ENTRANCE HYMN *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending (H 57)* *Helmsley*



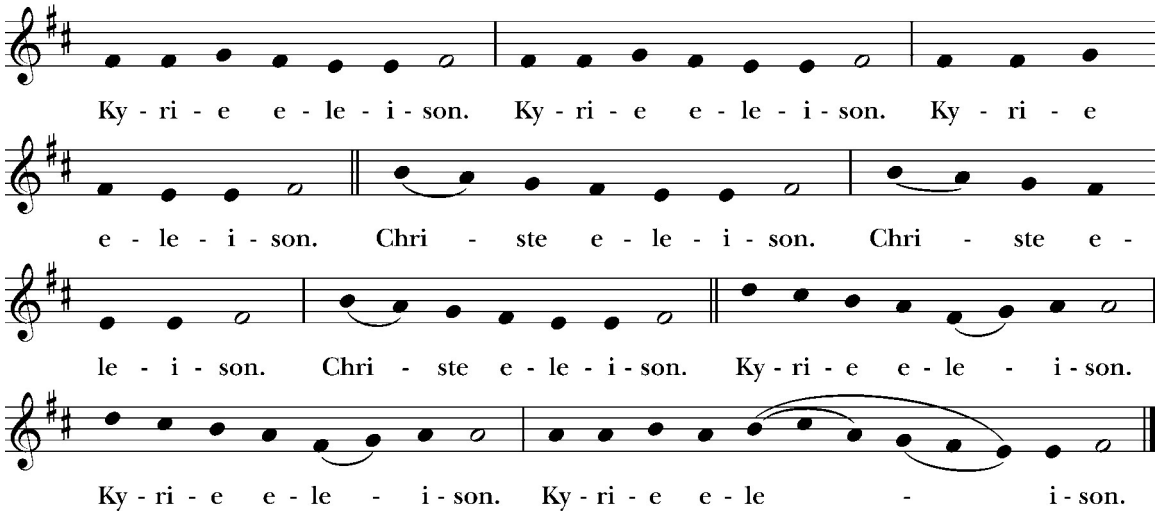
WELCOME

OPENING ACCLAMATION *(S 76)* *Martens*



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 inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Kyrie (S 86)* *Hurd*



COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

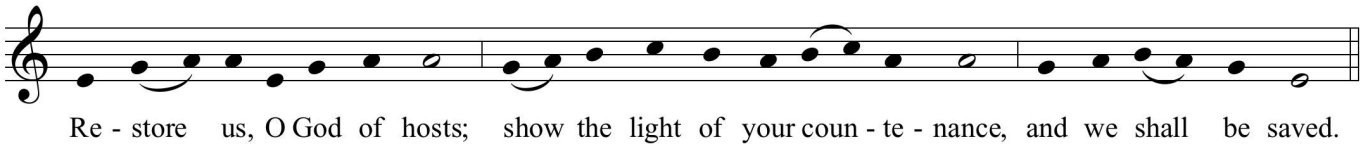
THE FIRST READING (*Please be seated.*) **Isaiah 64:1-9**

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: Psalm 80:1-2, 4-6, 16-17 *(The congregation sings the refrain.)* *Pechulis*



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. **[Refrain]**

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. **[Refrain]**

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. **[Refrain]**

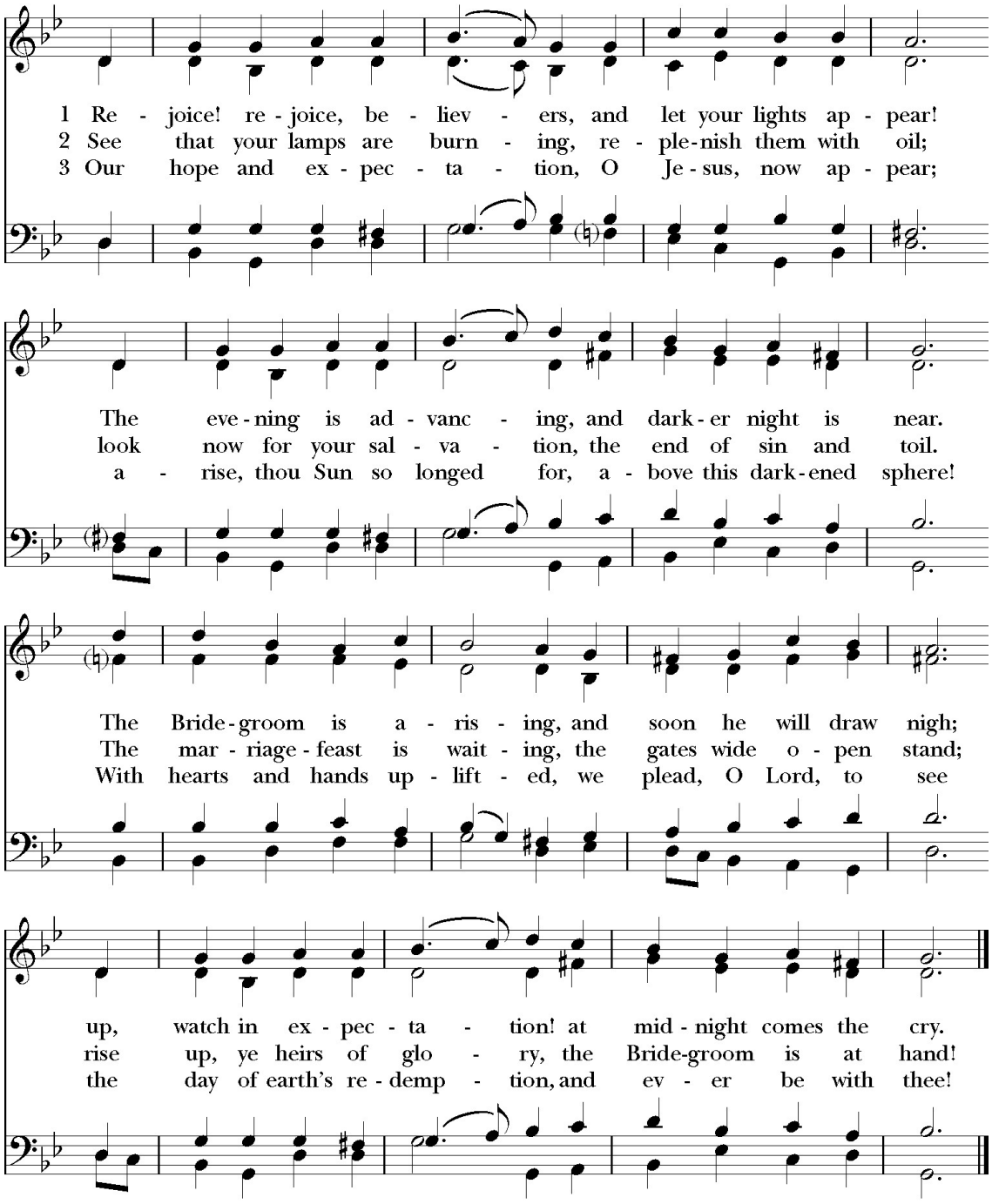
THE SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN *Rejoice, Believers (H 68; vs. 1-2 before; vs. 3 after)* *Llangloffan*



THE GOSPEL *(Please stand as you are able.)* **Mark 13:24-37**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
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 enslaved people 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Derek H. Miller

THE NICENE CREED (*Please stand.)*
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 *(Please remain standing as you are able.)*
After each petition,
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant offers a concluding collect. The People respond, **Amen**.

CONFESSION *(Please kneel or stand as you are able.)*
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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

THE PEACE
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

St. John's website
stjohnsec.org/give

venmo
@StJohnsECMD

Text to Give
Text "SJEC" to 73256

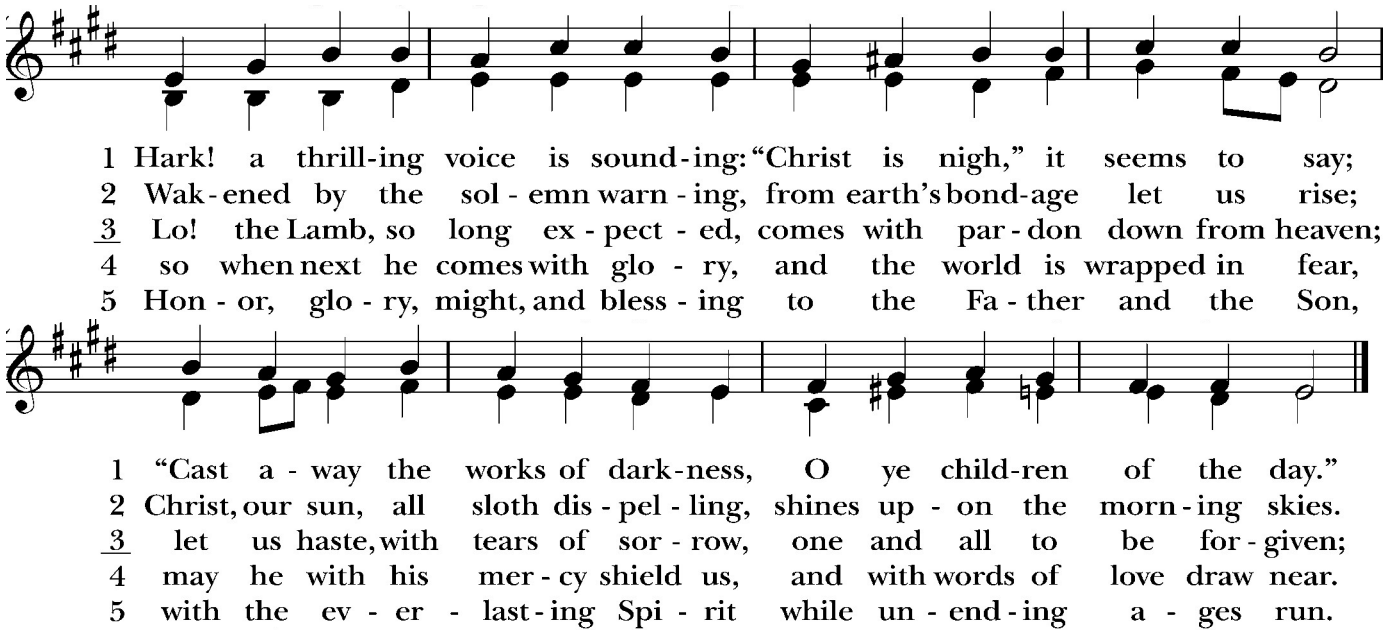
OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* *Hamill*
St. John's Choir

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are. Trav'ler, o'er yon mountain's height, see that glory beaming star. Watchman does its beauteous ray aught of joy or hope foretell? Trav'ler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel. Gloria!

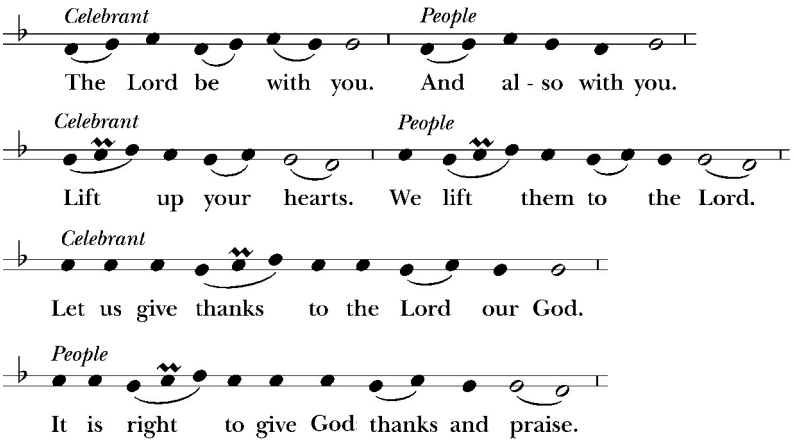
Watchman, tell us of the night, higher yet that star ascends. Trav'ler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends. watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav'ler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth. Gloria!

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn. Trav'ler, darkness takes its flight, doubt and terror are withdrawn. Watchman, let thy wandr'ings cease; hie thee to thy quiet home. Trav'ler, lo! the Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come! Gloria!

THE PRESENTATION HYMN *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding (H 59, vs. 1-2, 5)* *Merton*

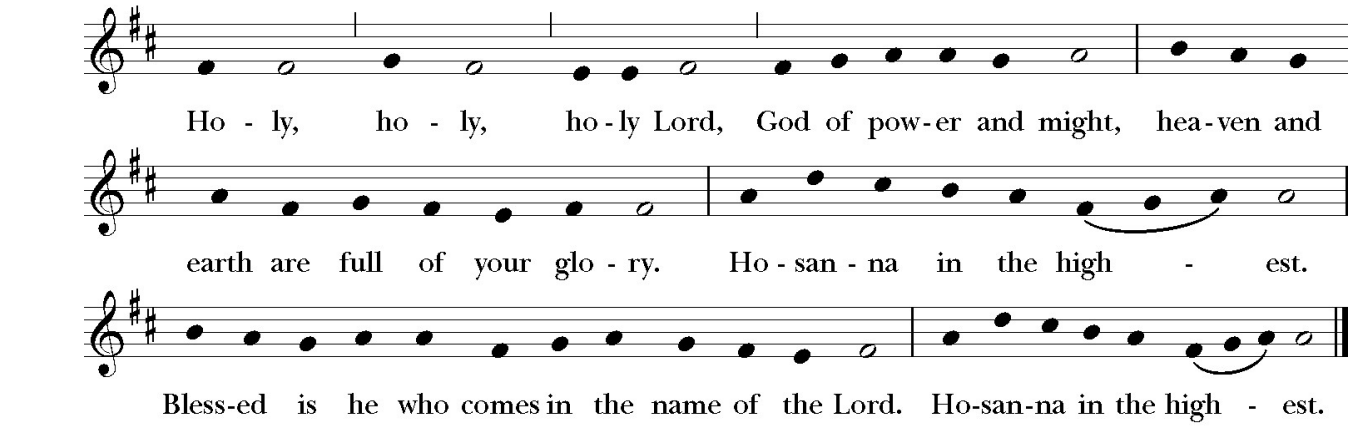


EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A



It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God 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:

SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy (S 124)* *Hurd*

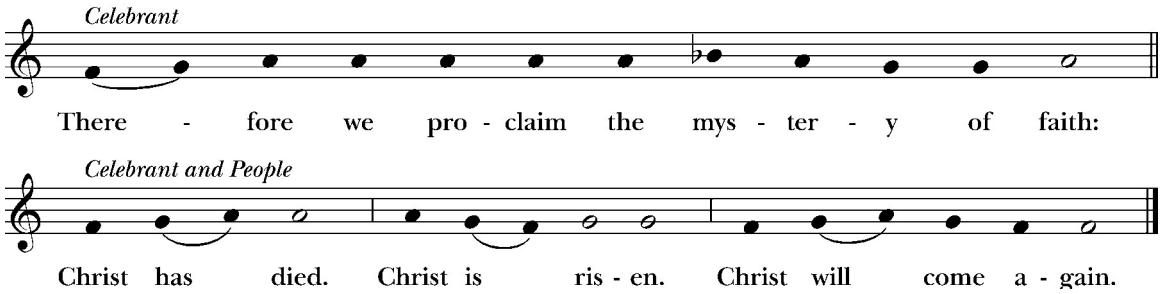


Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

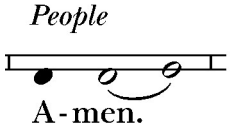
He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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."



We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, 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.



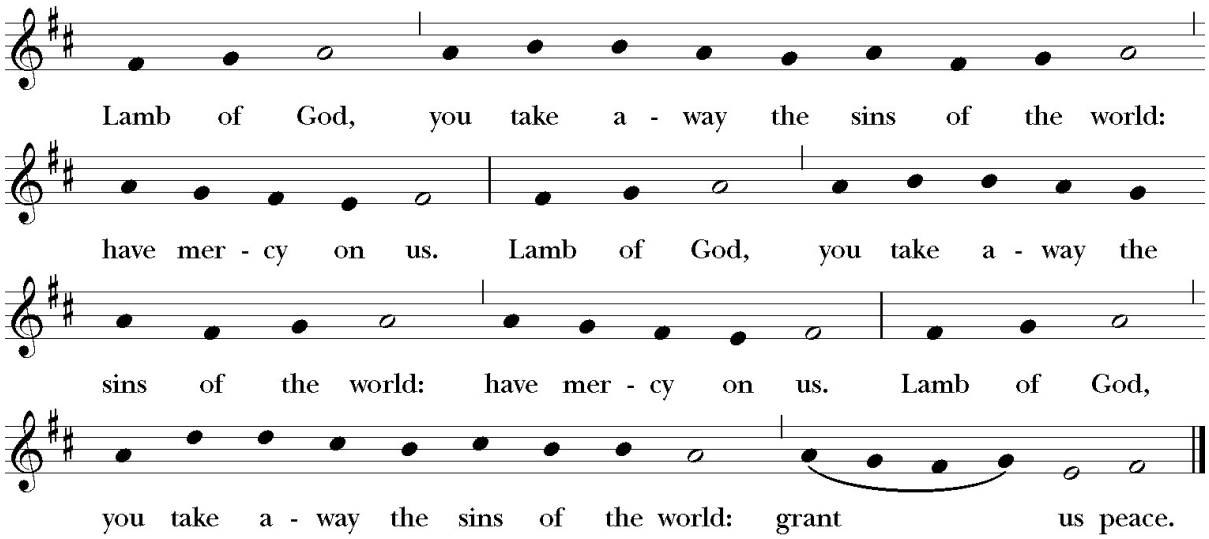
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD *(A silence is held.)*

FRACTION ANTHEM *Lamb of God (S 161)* *Hurd*

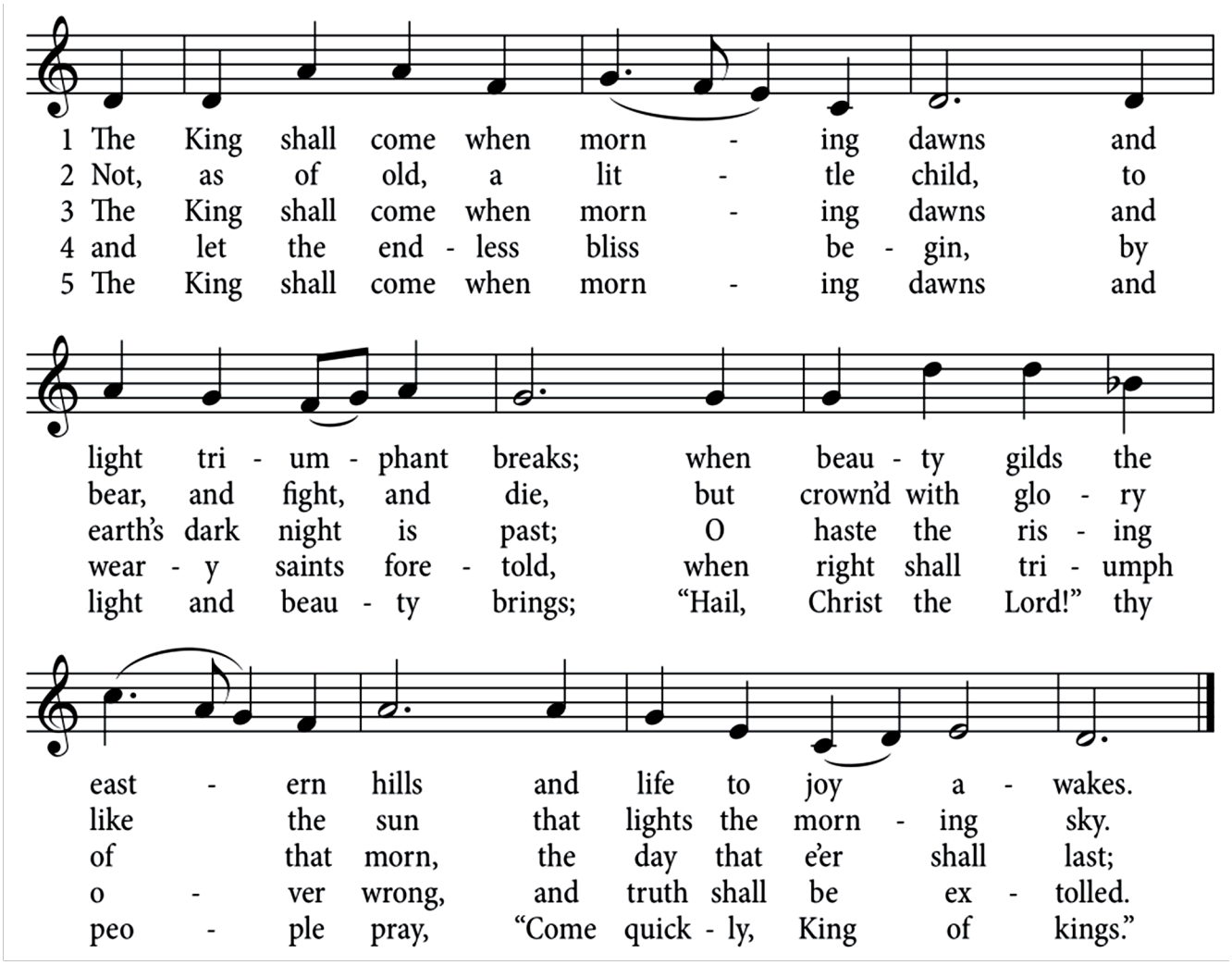


The Gifts of God for the People of God.

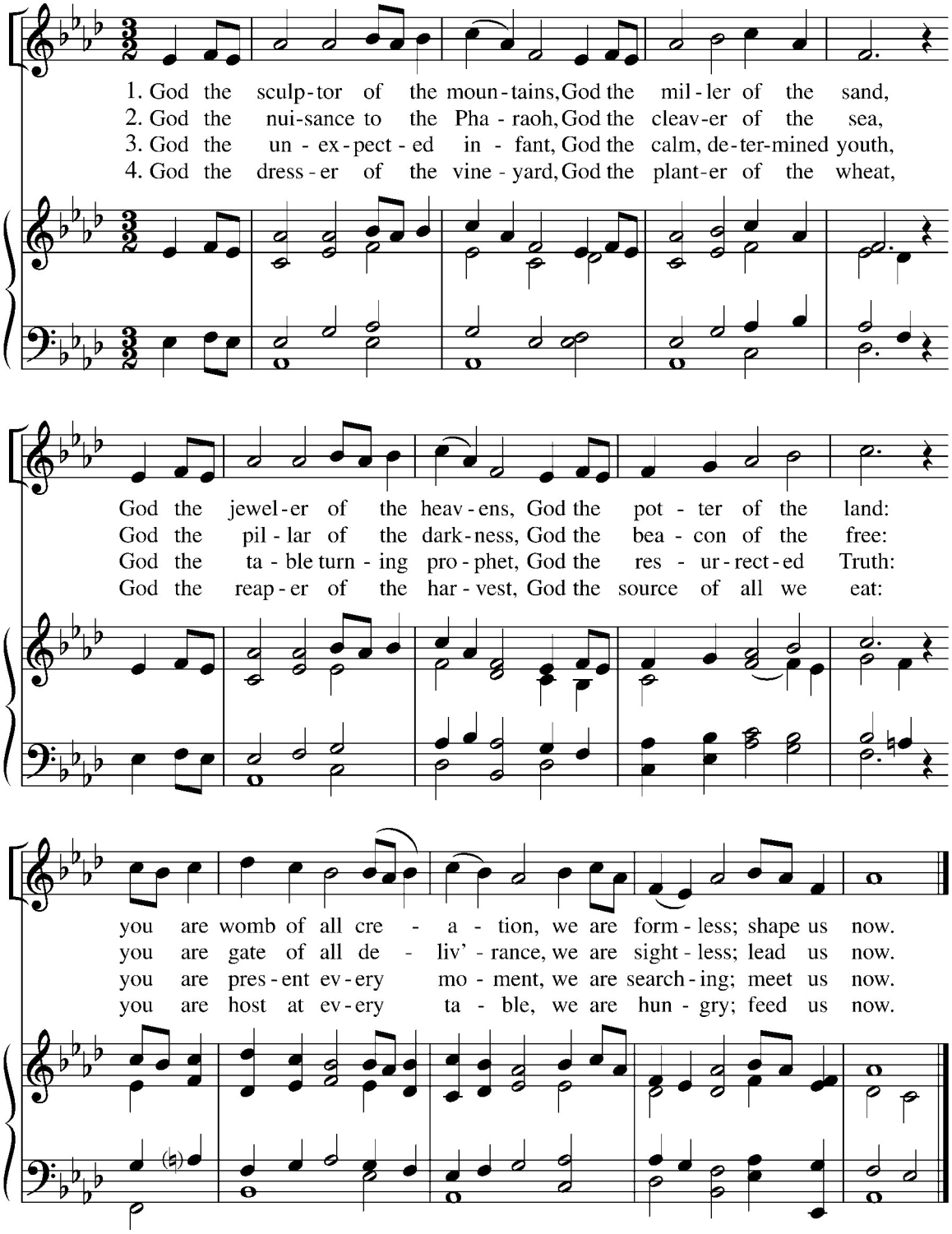
COMMUNION: God Welcomes You to the Table

This is Christ's Table, where God welcomes all to be fed and blessed. All baptized people, of any Christian tradition, background, or age, are invited to receive Communion. (Please follow the direction of the ushers.) We offer both a common cup for drinking and a separate cup for intinction/dipping. If you choose to drink from the Common Cup, please assist the Eucharistic Minister in directing the cup to your mouth. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the priest know. If you are not baptized or prefer a blessing, come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive God's blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know, and we will bring communion to you. You are also welcome to remain where you are for prayer and reflection. (Curious about baptism? One of our clergy would love to talk with you!)

COMMUNION HYMN I *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* *Merton Frye*



COMMUNION HYMN II *God the Sculptor (W 746)* *Sandria*

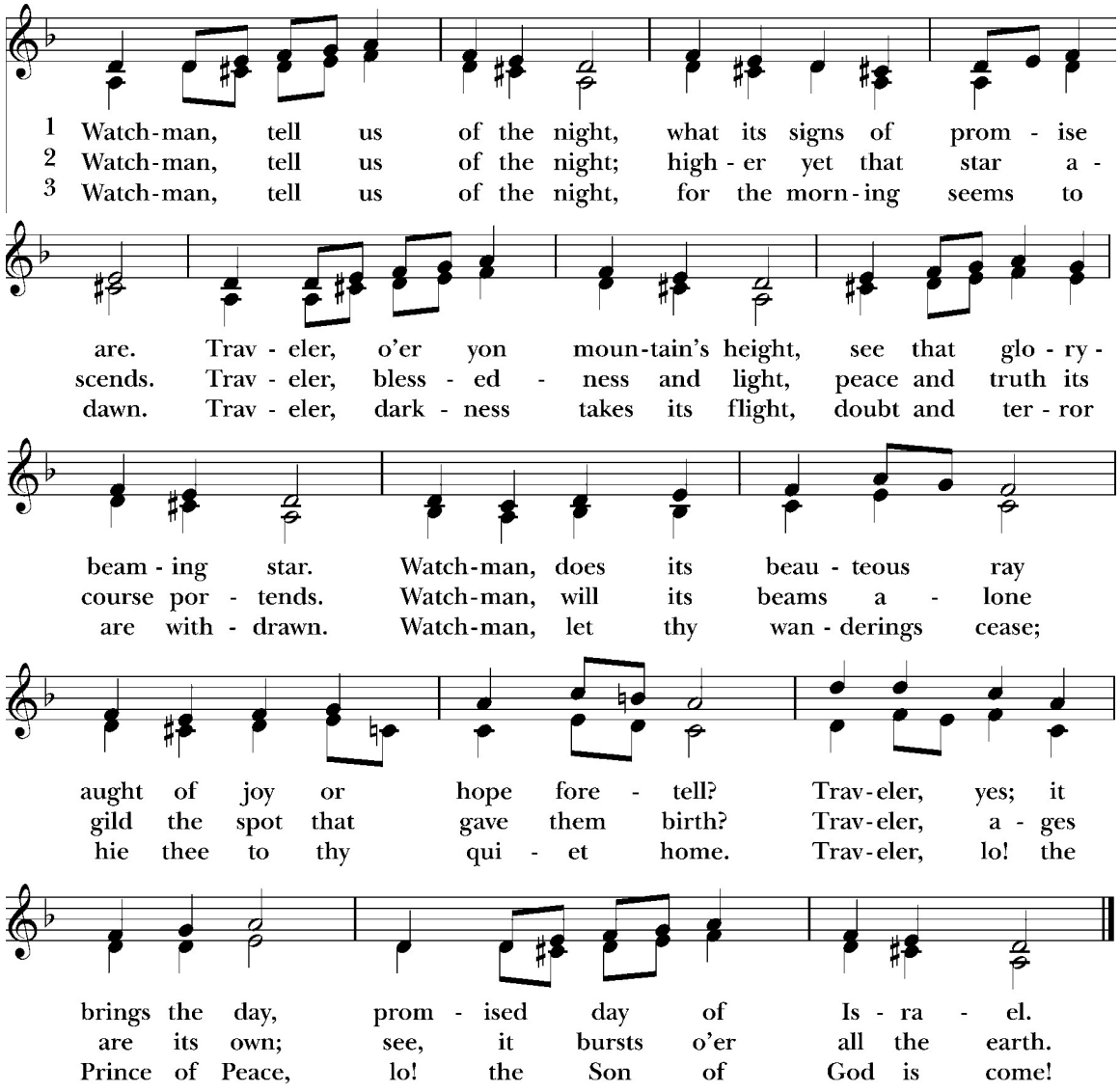


THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

CLOSING HYMN *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (H 640)* *John Bowring/Aberystwyth*



DISMISSAL

(The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses the People, to which we respond)

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Wake, O Wake* *Wayne Wold*

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Andy, Eilidh, Frank & Jennifer, James, Jenna, Louise & Family, Anne Ackerman, Mark Albright, Liz Armstrong, Beverley Ajeck, Deb Avant, Steve Belknap, Kerry Birney, Breezy Bishop, Karl & Ruth Boin, John G. Boyle, Teddy Clarke, Barbara Epke & Gordon Nahas, Glenda Finley, Constance & David Fischel, Sue Frixione, Emily Geist, Michael Gottlieb, Betsy Grater, Marti Guillet, Lauren Hopkins, John Kreft, Bill Lindemann, Paige Marlow, Brent & Meg McDorman, Pat Merson, Bob Miller, Charles H. Miller, Phyllis Nelson, Roger Nelson, Kathy O'Dunne, Yvonne Osmond, Jean Purcell, Roland Russoli, Teri Salmons, Dan Staples, Tricia Supik, Christopher Towle, Marion Walker, and Victoria Weimer.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY OVERSEAS: *LCDR Matthew Kircher, USN*

To have someone included on our prayer list, you may: Contact the Parish Office by phone or email your prayer request to Tracey Stone at tstone@stjohnsec.org. ***Names will remain on the prayer list for 30 days. After the initial 30 days, if you wish to have a name stay on the list, please re-submit your request.***



We'll share a short prayer, dinner, games, and time together. Bring a ready-to-eat dish to share and a favorite game. Friends are welcome! Parents stay with their children; no drop-offs. Questions? Contact Scot Millen at smillen@gmail.com.

NEW TO ST. JOHN'S?

Welcome!

JOIN US FOR A NEWCOMERS' GATHERING

Sun., Dec. 6
12:30 p.m.
Auditorium

Meet members of our clergy, vestry, and parish community and learn more about St. John's.

RSVP to Newcomers@stjohnsec.org (or just show up!)

ANNUAL GIVING 2027

Be Known
Be Loved
Belong

Support St. John's Ministries with a 2027 Pledge

Download a hard copy form or pledge online at www.stjohnsec.org/give



St. John's

Winter Solstice Labyrinth Walk

Candle-lit, docent-supported walks

Mon., Dec. 21, 2026
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
(weather permitting)

Meditations will be available at the Labyrinth kiosk.

Are you grieving a loved one?

Walking the Mourner's Path

is an 8-week series of grief workshops led by St. John's trained lay facilitators and a clergy member.

This program is geared toward individuals who are at least 6 months post-loss. All are welcome.

Next series
Wednesdays,
January 13 ~ March 10
7:00 ~ 8:30 p.m.
Zoom

Details: stjohnsec.org/pastoral-care

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

There is so much news to share at St. John's. If you aren't receiving our e-news, *Blessings*, each Friday, please sign up using this QR code.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & PARISH DAY SCHOOL

9120 Frederick Road ~ Ellicott City, MD 21042
Church Office: 410-461-7793 ~ Clergy On-call Phone: 443-538-2806
Church Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or by appointment; Fri. Closed
www.stjohnsec.org ~ www.stjohnspds.org

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.: Contemplative Worship, Historic Church
Sundays. 9:00 a.m.: Family-friendly Worship, All Saints Hall
Sundays, 11:00 a.m.: Traditional Worship, Historic Church
(11:00 a.m. is livestreamed whenever possible on YouTube — https://bit.ly/SJEC-YouTube)
주일 성찬예배 오전 *10:30*, 한국어 성찬예배는 *Resurrection* 채플에서 드립니다.

Find more worship information at https://www.stjohnsec.org

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Derek H. Miller, *Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Allison Harmon,
Associate Rector & Day School Chaplain

The Venerable Ruth Elder, *Deacon*

The Rev. J. Joseph Hart, *Assisting Clergy*

Ms. Georgi Funderburk,
Minister of Faith & Practice for Children & Youth

Ms. Kathy Hahn, *Director of Finance*

Mr. Warren Harris, *Facilities Tech*

Mr. Brad Jones, *Director of Facilities*

Ms. Annie Kao, *Stewardship Assistant*

Mr. Gaius Lee,
Lay Associate for the Korean Congregation

Ms. Nancy Murphy, *Parish Administrator*

Mr. Justin Pechulis,
Director of Music Ministries & Organist

Mr. Mike Ritonia, *Facilities Tech*

Mr. Steve Springer, *Head of School*

Ms. Tracey Stone, *Director of Communications*

VESTRY

David Hale
Senior Warden

Scott Geist
Junior Warden

Doug Hall
Treasurer

Clare Brooks
Registrar

Susan Fedors
David Hale
Kim Kerry
Hanna Rhee
Class of 2027

Paul Casasco
Rick Conover
Tim Loomis
Dawn Rea
Class of 2028

Marcia Boyle
Matt Maloney
Anne Reilly
Lane Zabriskie
Class of 2029

Like Us, Follow Us, Watch Us Online:
Facebook: Facebook.com/StJohnsec.org
Instagram: @StJohnsECMD
YouTube: https://bit.ly/SJEC-YouTube

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St. John's website
stjohnsec.org/give

venmo @StJohnsECMD

Text to Give
Text "SJEC" to 73256

Introduce Yourself
stjohnsec.org/welcome



• FRIDGE NOTES •

Advent & Christmas 2026

Detach and take home.

Holiday BASKETS



for ARC of Howard Co. & The Kirk P. Gaddy Youth Ctr.

SIGN-UP
NOV. 29 ~ DEC. 13

Email Cindy Dyer, Debbie Lieberman, & Diane Standeven at Outreach@stjohnsec.org.

"People Look East"



Advent Labyrinth Walks

Candle-lit, docent-supported walks

Dec. 5, 12, & 19, 2026

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

(weather permitting)

Or walk as your schedule allows anytime on the weekends of Advent. Meditations will be available at the Labyrinth kiosk.

Christmas Pageant

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 • 11 AM
HISTORIC CHURCH

Sign up: bit.ly/SJ-Pageant-26



SPECIAL HOLIDAY BASKET COLLECTION

Monies purchase grocery gift cards to be included with our Holiday Baskets for ARC of Howard Co. & The Kirk P. Gaddy Youth Ctr.

Donate online now at https://bit.ly/SJEC-GiveNow
Fund=Outreach Ministry Memo=Special Collection

Donate online now or at services on
Sat., Dec. 12; 5 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 13; 11 a.m.
Historic Church



Remember, honor, or give thanks for a loved one at Christmas while helping St. John's decorate the Historic Church & All Saints Hall

$50 DONATION

- Use a flower offering envelope (in the pews or at the Welcome Center) and place it in the offering plate); or
- Donate online at https://bit.ly/ChristmasFlowers-26

Respond *no later than* Dec. 14 to have loved ones' names listed in the Christmas bulletins.

MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S PRESENTS

SOUNDS OF THE SEASONS

Sun. Dec. 20
4:00 p.m.
Historic Church.

Free admission; Donations welcome

The Living Crèche at St. John's: December 24th ~ 30th



Gather family & friends and bring the crèche to life and keep the animals company on the front lawn.

Look for details and sign-up coming soon.

Christmas Services (see reverse)



Christmas 2026 at St. John's

We advise that you arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the service time in order to get your desired seat, with your desired people, and to enjoy the prelude music.

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. | All Saints Hall | Preparing the Crèche Service with Holy Eucharist
Wonder at the mystery and meaning of Christ's birth in this worship offering designed especially for families with young children and open to all. Children will bring to life the Crèche for Christmas.

5:00 p.m. | Historic Church & Livestream | Festal Holy Eucharist
Rejoice at the message of the angels as the Good News of Christmas is proclaimed through scripture and music. Traditional Christmas carols and special music are featured.

5:30 p.m. | All Saints Hall | Celtic Christmas with Holy Eucharist
Celebrate Christmas through Irish, Scottish, and English carols and traditional instruments.

10:00 p.m. | Historic Church | Festal Holy Eucharist
Traditional Christmas music by the Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, and Instrumental Ensemble. Music begins at 9:30 p.m.
(*This service will include light incense.*)

Friday, December 25: Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. | Historic Church | The Holy Eucharist with Carols
The Feast of the Nativity celebrated with carol singing.

Sunday, December 27: Christmas I

10:00 a.m. | Historic Church | Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist & Baptism

(*There will be no other services on the weekend of Dec. 26 & 27.*)

rev. 11.23.26