



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & PARISH DAY SCHOOL

The Second Sunday After Christmas

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026
11:00 A.M. • HISTORIC CHURCH**

We welcome you here at St. John's to be met by God, who already knows you and loves you.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Music pages can be found following page 8.

*During the service, the congregation reads the parts in **bold**.*

PRELUDE

(Please stand as you are able.)

ENTRANCE HYMN *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

(H 93) M-1

WELCOME

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1 &3)*

(H 96) M-2

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING *(Please be seated.)*

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;

a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,

and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,

in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,

and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the **LORD**, O nations,

and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,

and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the **LORD** has ransomed Jacob,

and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the **LORD**,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,

and over the young of the flock and the herd;

their life shall become like a watered garden,

and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,

and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the **LORD**.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place (Psalm 84)

(H 517) **M-3**

THE SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know

what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN *Love Came Down at Christmas* (vs. 1-2 before; vs. 3 after)

(H 84) **M-4**

THE GOSPEL (*Please stand as you are able.*)

Matthew 2:1-12

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

`And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel!'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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,

Glory and praise to you, O Living God.

God of all families and peoples, accept the prayers we offer in this joyful season. As we welcome this mystery of you love, may we delight in our joy as children and heirs of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESION (*Please kneel or remain standing 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 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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

I appeal to you, dear siblings in Christ, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.



St. John's website
stjohnsec.org/give



@StJohnsECMD



Text to Give
Text "SJEC" to 73256

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *On This Day Earth Shall Ring (H 92)*

St. John's Choir

*Personent hodie***THE PRESENTATION HYMN** *The First Nowell (H 109, vs. 1 and refrain)**The First Nowell*

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God 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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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 Lord**Schubert*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might,____ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might,____ hea - ven and earth are
full,____ full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. 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.**

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 Jesus, Lamb of God

Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION: God Welcomes You to the Table

This is Christ's Table, and God welcomes us all to be fed and blessed here. All those baptized, regardless of church tradition/denomination, background, or age are invited to receive Communion as members of the Body of Christ. Please let the clergy know if you require a gluten-free wafer. If you are not yet baptized, or wish to receive a Blessing instead of Communion, please cross your hands across your chest and the minister will affirm God's blessing on you. If you are unable to come forward for Communion, please let an usher know so that the clergy may come to you. If you are interested in exploring more of what baptism could mean for you, please speak to Rev. Derek, our Rector, and he would LOVE to talk about baptism with you!

COMMUNION HYMNS *There's a Star in the East*
'Twas the Moon of Wintertime

(L 24) **M-5**
(H 114) **M-6**

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 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

(H 107) **M-7**

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *In Dulci Jubilo*, BWV 729

J.S. Bach

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Deb Avant, Steve Belknap, Jim Bruce, Richard Burrows, Leslie Edmonds, Barbara Epke, Sarah, Theo, & Josefine Fahrendorf, Loretta Gleason, Sunny Good, Marti Guillet, Janis, Jim, Beth John, Rose Jones, Kathryn, Ruth Keimig, Kelly, Mary Jo Kenney, Mike Kinzel, John Kreft, Terry Kreft, Mary Krzos, Tom & Dorothy Linthicum, Glenda Lovchik, Judy Lovchik, Jean Marlow, Brent & Meg McDorman, Pat Merson, Charles H. Miller, Gordon Nahas, Kathy O'Dunne, Jean Purcell, Rev. C. Dean Pugh, Robert Richardson, Roland Russoli, Clay Shiflet, Teresa Sinkovich, Andrea Squire, Marion Walker, Allison Ward, Victoria Weimer, Dylan Williams, and Maria, Taylor, & Felicia Wray.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY OVERSEAS & THEIR FAMILIES: LCDR Matthew Kircher, USN

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by The Chen Family in memory of Songhae Chung and Meeyoung Chung.

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.

(12.22.2025; Please see Blessings for the most up-to-date list.)

ENTRANCE HYMN *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

Regent Square

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scand - ing,

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 yon - der shines the na - tal star: ye have seen his shall ap - pear:
 in his tem - ple

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 yon - der shines the na - tal star: ye have seen his shall ap - pear:
 in his tem - ple

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

M-2 (H 96)

HYMN OF PRAISE *Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1 & 3)*

Gloria



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o.



PSALM HYMN *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place (Psalm 84)*

1 How love - ly is thy dwell - ing - place, O Lord of hosts, to
 2 Be - side thine al - tars, gra - cious Lord, the swal-lows find a
 3 They who go through the des - ert vale will find it filled with
 4 One day with - in thy courts ex - cels a thou-sand spent a -

me! My thirst - y soul de - sires and longs with -
 nest; how hap - py they who dwell with thee and
 springs, and they shall climb from height to height till
 way; how hap - py they who keep thy laws nor

in thy courts to be; my ve - ry heart and
 praise thee with - out rest, and hap - py they whose
 Zi - on's tem - ple rings with praise to thee, in
 from thy pre - cepts stray, for thou shalt sure - ly

flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee.
 hearts are set up - on the pil - grim's quest.
 glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings.
 bless all those who live the words they pray.

M-4 (H 84)

GOSPEL HYMN *Love Came Down at Christmas* (vs. 1-2 before; vs. 3 after)

Gartan

1 Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.



COMMUNION HYMN I *There's a Star in the East*

Unison

1. There's a star in the east on____ Christ - mas morn,
 2. If you take good____ heed to the an - gel's words,

1. Rise up shep-herd and fol-low,____ It will lead to the place where the
 2. Rise up shep-herd and fol-low,____ You'll for - get your flocks, you'll for-

1. Christ was born,____ Rise up shep-herd and fol - low.____
 2. get your herds,____ Rise up shep-herd and fol - low.____

Harmony

Fol - low, fol - low, Rise up shep-herd and fol - low,____

Fol - low the Star of Beth - le - hem,____ Rise up shep-herd and fol - low.____

Optional Introduction

Refrain

(Fine)

Optional Interlude

1-3

2 With - in a lodge of
3 The ear - liest moon of
4 O chil - dren of the

Final Ending

8va —

CLOSING HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**In dulci jubilo*

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!



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

WEEKEND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.: Contemplative Worship, Historic Church

Sundays, 9:00 a.m.: Family-friendly, Contemporary 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](http://www.stjohnsec.org)

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Derek H. Miller
Rector

The Venerable Ruth Elder
Deacon

The Rev. Michael Looney
Transitional Deacon

The Rev. J. Joseph Hart
Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Gigie Sijera-Grant
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. Justin Pechulis
Director of Music Ministries & Organist

Mr. Mike Ritonia
Facilities Tech

Ms. Tracey Stone
Director of Communications

VESTRY

Gordon Knox
Senior Warden

Scott Geist
Junior Warden

Doug Hall
Treasurer

Clare Brooks
Registrar

Scott Geist
Katie Kelel
Lucia Martin
Marsha Trant
Class of 2026

Susan Fedors
David Hale
Kim Kerry
Janet Loughran
Class of 2027

Paul Casasco
Rick Conover
Tim Loomis
Dawn Rea
Class of 2028



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