



GOOD MORNING & WELCOME

Welcome to everyone joining us for worship this Christmas Morning. Whether or not you consider yourselves members of this congregation, we are glad you are here. If the flow of worship should seem unfamiliar to you, relax and let God's presence envelop you, without a worry about when to stand, sit or kneel. If you are new to St. John's, please sign our guest register.

****Please silence all cell phones and other noise-making devices
before the start of the service. Thank you.****

The Rev. Nathan Carr – Vicar
The Rev. William Font – Priest Associate
The Rev. Lisa Chronister – Deacon
Cynthia Cortright D.M.A. – Organist / Choir Director
Daisy Leyva-Lara – Children's Coordinator
Victoria Moon – Nursery Attendant

Serving Today:

Cantor – Doug Rogez
Layreader – Patricia Riden and Troy Vance
No Child Care Available

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*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors!"*

Luke 2:14

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Day – Year B

Rite II – Holy Eucharist – December 25, 2023 – 10:15 AM

The Word of God

Silent Processional

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

BCP 355

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.**

Gloria

The Hymnal, S280

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Cantate Domino

- 1 The Lord is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.

- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O Lord.
- 9 For you are the Lord,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

The Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a

sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. William Font

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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.

Celebrant

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.

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; 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, 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.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Leader 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.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Community Blessings

Blessing Prayer: O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; strengthen their trust in your goodness, and in their hearts may your peace, which passes understanding, abide all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory

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

Please stand as the offerings are presented to the Lord.

Doxology

The Hymnal, #380 (verse 3)

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

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.

Here a Proper Preface is said.

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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;**

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, Blessed John the Evangelist 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 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
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Gifts of God for the People of God

The principal act of worship in the Episcopal Church is the Holy Eucharist. It is an occasion when we meet our Lord as Really Present in this Sacrament. All Baptized Christians are welcome and invited to receive Him in the Sacrament of bread and wine at the altar rail. And everyone is invited to come forward as desired to receive a blessing instead, signified by crossing arms over the chest.

Holy Communion

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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

Dismissal Response: Thanks be to God!

Donations for Christmas Music were made by:

Dana Billingsley in thanksgiving for Cynthia and the wonderful St. John's Choir

Beverly Bradley in memory of Marilyn Campbell and Dr. Bess Hieronymus

Stuart & Dana Chai in thanksgiving for St. John's Choir and Cynthia Cortright

John & Vivian Dewar in thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren

Jan Dyer in thanksgiving for my children

Sharon Ellington to the Glory of God for the lives of Kenneth Sosna, Mary Fanning Taylor,
& Robert Kenneth Kott.

Kathleen & Rob Ferguson in thanksgiving for our blessings

Glen Fields in memory of Eddie and Alma Fields

John & Jean Freeman in thanksgiving for Cynthia and the choir

Cathie Gaunt in memory of Sue and John Rea and in thanksgiving for Danny, Kelly,
MaryAnn and Joe

J Michael Grissom in memory of Justin Walters

Julie Grissom in memory of Jim Grissom

David & Kimberly Jackson in thanksgiving for our family

Nancy Jones in thanksgiving for St. Johns Choir

Mary Margaret Just in memory of Fr. Jim Brady and Eric Just

Gary and Kathleen Lee to the Glory of God

Devie Maxwell in thanksgiving for our amazing choir

The Morgan Family in thanksgiving for and celebration of Oakley's life

Deborah Nelson to the Glory of God

Babette Patton in memory of Bobbie Patton

Liz Pearson in memory of Lynn D. Pearson

Patricia Riden in thanksgiving for Cynthia Cortright and the St. John's Choir

Nancy Steward in loving memory of Edward Steward

Ann Warzyn in thanksgiving for Florence & Barto Erwin

Patsy Williams in thanksgiving for devoted friends

Midge Woodard in thanksgiving for my grandsons, Archie and William

Donations for Christmas Flowers were made by:

Dana Billingsley in thanksgiving for the Altar & Flower Guild Members
Beverly Bradley in memory of Charles Bradley and Martha and Jim Fisher
Stuart & Dana Chai in thanksgiving for our children and their children
John & Vivian Dewar in memory of Jane White
Jan Dyer in thanksgiving for grandchildren
Sharon Ellington in Loving Memory, Mr & Mrs George K.Sosna, Mr & Mrs George W. Sosna, Mr & Mrs J.Harold Russell, Natalie Drewnicky.
Kathleen & Rob Ferguson in memory of Robert Decker
Glen Fields in memory of Lloyd & Lillian Fields and Goldie Walker
John & Jean Freeman in thanksgiving for our family
Barbie Garrison, Paul & Sarah Kramer in memory of deceased members of the Garrison-Kramer family
John Greiner in memory of Jack & Jerry Greiner and Rosalie Greiner Wesson
J Michael Grissom in memory of Jim Grissom
Julie Grissom in thanksgiving for flower arrangers
David & Kim Jackson in thanksgiving for St John's Church and the Daughters of the King
Nancy Jones in memory of Carol E Dunham and David Eskridge
Gary and Kathleen Lee in memory of Christopher and Brandon Lee
Devie Maxwell in memory of my youth
The Morgan Family in memory of Oakley Alexander Morgan
Deborah Nelson in memory of David Nelson
Babette Patton in thanksgiving for Daughters of the King
Liz Pearson in memory of Jane Holcombe and Jean Inge
Ron & Priscilla Pierce in memory of Mac Allison
Patricia Riden in thanksgiving for family and friends
Nancy Steward in thanksgiving for the Daughters of the King
Ann Warzyn in memory of Joe Warzyn
Patsy Williams in thanksgiving for many blessings
Midge Woodard in thanksgiving for family and friends

Thank You for Your Faithful Service All Year Round

THE ALTAR GUILD

Dana Billingsley, Directress

Dana Chai	Kathleen Coleson	Peggy Cummings
Vivian Dewar	Kathleen Ferguson	Jean Freeman
Julie Grissom	Kimberly Jackson	Nema Maney
Emily Mooney	Trish Morgan	Ann Warzyn

THE FLOWER GUILD

Dana Billingsley, Devie Maxwell

ACOLYTES

Patricia Riden, Acolyte Master

Latoya Burris	Charlie Bornman	Cornel Bornman
Esther Carr	Ezra Carr	Ian Carr
Lewis Carr	Olive Kate Carr	Andy Fuller
Thomas Howard	Birch Kolb	Charley Kolb
Truitt Kolb	Eli Mooney	Finn Newberry
Graham Newberry	Sir Patton	Jade Rodgers
Kaden Watson		

LAY READERS AND CHALICE BEARERS

Patricia Riden, Coordinator

Mark Anderson	Dana Billingsley	Beverly Bradley	Stuart Chai
Sharon Ellington	Pat Greaves	Sarah Greenley	Julie Grissom
Chad Harris	Angela Hooper	David Jackson	Nancy Jones
Aaron Mooney	Steve Orwig	Babette Patton	Priscilla Pierce
Patricia Riden	Rosemary Rodgers	Xander Rodgers	Nancy Steward
Victoria Thomason	Sarah Tracy	Troy Vance	H. L. Watson

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR

Dr. Cynthia Cortright, Organist/Choir Director

Beverly Bradley	Sharon Ellington	Kathleen Ferguson
Steven Garcia	Cathie Gauntt	Myrna Gowman
Jim Gray	Mary Margaret Just	Tony Maruchella
John Newberry	Dana Orwig	Steve Orwig
Jade Rodgers	Rosemary Rodgers	Xander Rodgers
Doug Rogez	Victoria Rogez	Victoria Thomason
Cherie Tompkins	Doug Traywick	

MUSICIANS

Cindy Zhang, first violin	Jean Statham, cello
Steve Waddell, viola	Kelli Ingels, second violin
James Monroe, trumpet	Christi Wans, trumpet